ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL / SECTIONS M -T Sunday, December 9, 2007 ★★ 28 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 1 P20

Tried & True @ 52

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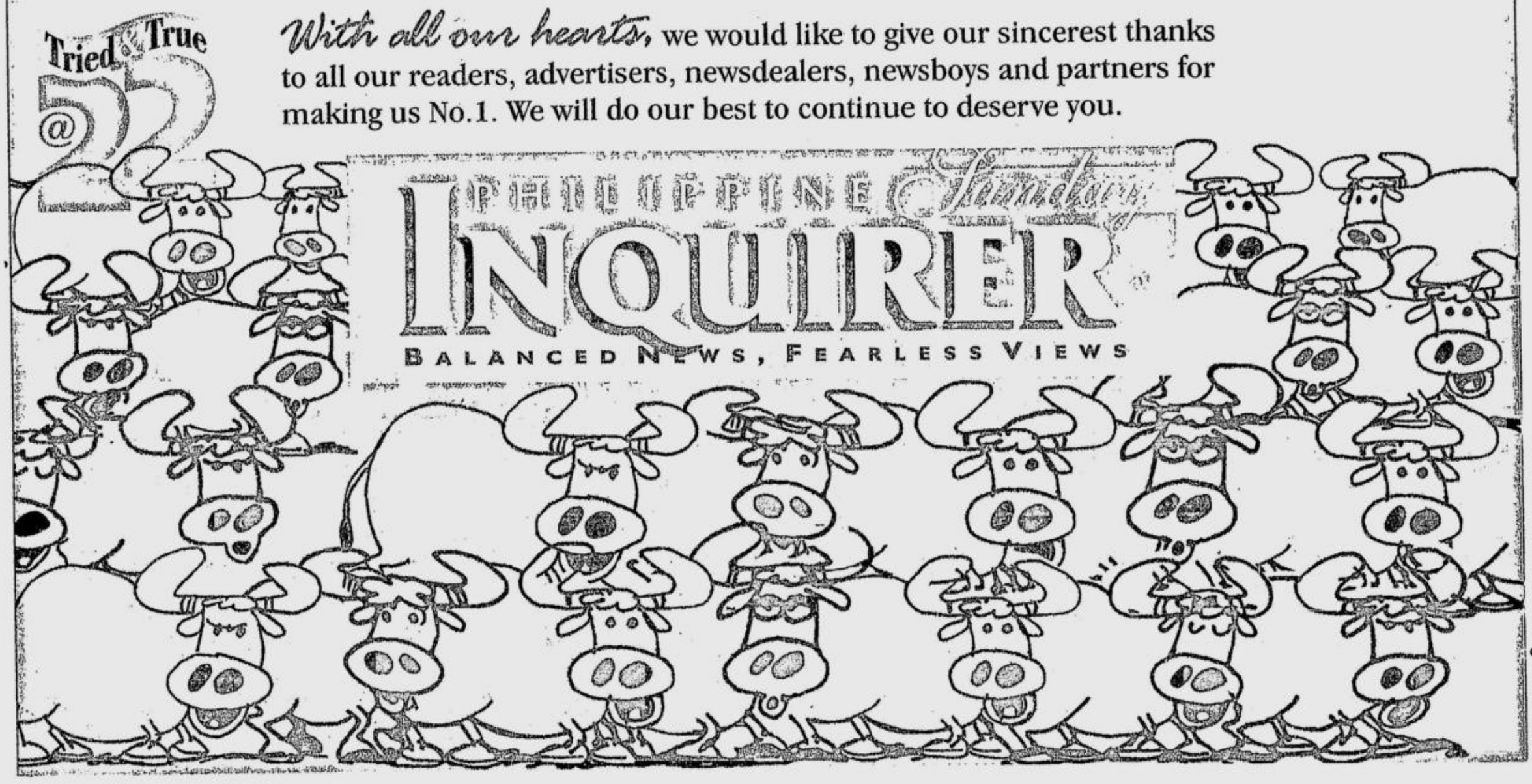

RP reaps golden harvest

Pinoys capture 11 golds in big SEA Games surge

By Ernesto A. Gonzales
Sports Features Editor

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, THAILAND—ATHLETICS FInally delivered three and Miguel Molina triumphed again to spark a victory splurge of 11 golds on Saturday that could only lift the Philippines to fourth overall in the 24th Southeast Asian Games here .

Fencing and dance sports contributed two victories each while billiards, rowing and the new sport of duathlon joined the winner's row as the Filipinos raised their golden haul to 14 as competitions moved into the night.

24th SEA GAMES

The defending overall champion Filipinos stood just two golds behind Singapore with 16 even as host Thailand raised its leading golden collection to 43 with Vietnam a far second with 23.

(Other SEA Games stories in Sports Section.)

Hammer thrower Arniel Ferrera and steeplechase ace Rene Herrera captured their respective events for the third time while Marestella Torres retained her long jump title on her sixth and final attempt at the Main Stadium.

Molina defended the second of his three titles by ruling the men's 200 individual medley easily, finishing almost four seconds ahead of Thailand's Matjiur Radomyos with a time of 2:05.50.

Emerson Segui (men's individual foil) and Michelle Bruzola (women's individual epee) nailed the two golds for the fencers while dance sport struck in the standard tango (Joel Madera-Anabelle Alo) and standard quick step (Emmanuel Reyes-Maira Rosete).

RP REAPS/ A15

Ex-DAR chief: Sumilao is one case I'm certain farmers are right

By Jerome Aning

THE CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO heed the Higaonon farmers who marched for two months to dramatize their claim to a 144-hectare property in Sumilao, Bukidnon, is ringing louder, with more Church leaders and a former agrarian reform secretary joining in.

The Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines cosponsored a Mass yesterday afternoon at the farmers' picket line at the Department of Agrarian Reform central office in Quezon City, in an effort to continue demonstrating Church support.

Priests, nuns, seminarians and laymen joined the farmers at the Mass, which marked the feast of the Immaculate Conception, one of Christendom's holiest days.

Florencio "Butch" Abad, who held the agrarian reform portfolio in 1990, visited the farmers' makeshift camp and told reporters that failure on the government's part to address the farmers' claim could add to political instability.

"The Sumilao farmers have taken all the legal steps. Now they have launched a 1,700-kilometer walk. What will happen if they don't get what they want? It's anybody's guess," he said.

Abad said the incumbent DAR chief, Nasser Pangandaman, "does not really need more time" to study the Sumilao case.

"In all the [land reform] cases that I have read, this is the only case where I am certain that the farmers are right," he said, adding:

"The DAR should always stand beside the farmers. In the case of Sumi-

EX-DAR CHIEF/ A15

3 OFW families reveal secrets of enduring ties

By TJ Burgonio

THERE ARE MANY ANGUISHED stories of marriages ruined by the departure of one partner for a job abroad. But there are countless more of overseas workers' families that thrive, that keep the faith and remain intact.

Some would call it resiliency. Others would simply attribute it to the wonders of modern communication.

"We would greet him every day by text, we don't mind the expense. At least every day, we have communication," said Corazon Atuel whose seaman-husband, Capt. Eugenio Atuel, is now skipper of a ship in Jeddah.

Eugenio would call his wife and their seven children, aged 6 to 23, on

3 OFW/ A8

Anniversary Read-Along a festival of kids' stories

By Kate V. Pedroso
Inquirer Research

AS PART OF THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER's anniversary celebration, a festival of stories greeted some 90 children at yesterday's special Read-Along session featuring INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez as guest storyteller.

The INQUIRER celebrated its 22nd anniversary yesterday.

The 20th Read-Along also featured the following readers: Rich Rodriguez and Charlene Chua from Alitaptap Storytellers Philippines, teachers and students from the Sophia School in Meycauayan, Bulacan, and Melanie Belen, country vice president of Scholastic Philippines.

Romualdez chose to read Jose Rizal's famous tale "The Monkey and the Turtle" because it had a moral lesson and so kids would discover that "there's a hero in all of us."

When Romualdez took center stage, book in hand, her sons, Luca, who's almost 7, and Ben, 6, handled the props.

Ben held up a foot-high banana tree made of art paper while Luca held out a colorful stuffed turtle. Their mom multitasked by reading Rizal's folk tale and holding a brown stuffed monkey.

ANNIVERSARY/ A15

ROMY HOMILLADA

SPECIAL TREAT: To mark the INQUIRER's 22nd anniversary, its president/CEO Sandy P. Romualdez is a storyteller at the Read-Along with the help of sons Luca and Ben.

Naia video shows who's naughty, who's nice when Santa came

By Tarra Quismundo

TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEEN NAUGHTY or nice, hit the rewind button.

Airport officials are reviewing closed-circuit video tapes to find out which of their employees left their posts on Thursday to get their *pa-*

NAIA/ A8

Frontline Leadership: 5 local execs show how

By Volt Contreras

THE PRESIDENT OF ATENEO DE Manila University, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, ended his remarks at a book launch on a thought-provoking note on national leadership.

"I look forward to the future when the next President of the Philippines does not come from the Senate but from [the ranks of] mayors or governors," Nebres said, eliciting cheers from the other guests at Wednesday's dinner program for "Frontline Leadership," a book project of the Ateneo School of Government that was backed by the German foundation Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

"I do hope that a next generation of leaders will emerge and see local leadership as the wave of the future," he said.

"Frontline Leadership" features the stories of five local chief executives as examples of "how things get done" at the grass roots, away from Manila-centric politics. It offers hope for reform and renewal in Philippine government, not in the lofty national agencies, but in the low-key efforts and rolled-up sleeves of town and city leaders.

Written by several authors, the book recounts the performances of four former local officials—including an unnamed female governor in the Visayas—and one incumbent.

Those named are Naga Mayor and Ramon Magsaysay awardee Jesse Robredo, former San Fernando, La Union Mayor, Mary Jane Ortega, former Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz, and former Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers.

FRONTLINE/ A8

JOB Market
Start your future here

NEWS / A11
Rene Saguisag leaves hospital to recuperate at home but is still too weak to visit wife's grave

LIFESTYLE /C1
Lifestyle editor's rave board: Take a bow Nena Tantoco and team who decked out the 10 display windows of Rustan's Makati to delight kids from one to 92

ACROSS /A16
German newspaper gives legs to 9-year-old vegetable vendor who was mistaken for a dog

LIFESTYLE /C4
Animal rights: A graphic essay by Gilda Cordero-Fernando dedicated to women

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms which may cause flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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SIX DIGIT Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening 3 7 3 | 1 2 4

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN 5 12 16 21 29 34 ₱4,694,202.00

Reds: Pen link 'false, crazy'

Call for release of 2 'housewives' tagged in coup attempt

By Jerome Aning and Alcuin Papa

THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT DENIED YESterday any participation in the Nov. 29 failed revolt at the Peninsula Manila hotel in Makati City.

In a statement, the chief negotiator of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, Luis Jalandoni, said government claims the NDFP, the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines had something to do with the hotel seige were "patently false" and "crazy."

Jalandoni also relayed the NDFP's view that the hotel takeover was not a coup d'etat or rebellion but a mere "protest action" and that efforts to link the communists to the incident through the arrest of two "housewives" were a product of gossip by government and security authorities.

"The Arroyo regime is crazy for misrepresenting isolated hotel takeovers as coups d'etat or rebellion," Jalandoni said, adding that a power grab was "an attempt to capture the fake President Arroyo, seize the main installations of her political power, and thereby disable the regime."

Praise for Trillanes et al.

Trillanes and Lim, during their seven-hour seige of the hotel, had demanded the resignation of President Arroyo and urged the military to withdraw support from her administration.

Jalandoni criticized Trillanes and Lim for being "over optimistic in expecting the people and military to come to their support in a matter of a few hours."

However, he said, the CPP "praises" the duo "for denouncing the puppetry, exploitation, corruption, mendacity and brutality of the Arroyo regime and for urging the people to rise up to oust the regime and the military to withdraw support from the regime."

Elizabeth Principe

Jalandoni scored the accusations made by police officials that the arrests of NDF consultant Elizabeth Principe a day before the hotel seige and Myrna Buendia, an alleged associate of CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, were proof of a "Left-Right conspiracy."

Jalandoni claimed Principe, who was arrested on Nov. 28 in Quezon City, was in Manila "in connection with her role as an NDFP political consultant, for a medical examination and family matters, including the continuing search for her husband, NDFP political consultant Leo Velasco, who was abducted early this year."

Principe made a similar claim in a statement she released on the NDFP website. She said she was undergoing a medical checkup in Cubao when she was abducted by military and police agents.

Myrna Buendia

As for Buendia, whom the military and police have described Sison's "common-law wife," Jalandoni said the NDFP was informed that she was a "mere bystander" during the hotel incident.

"It is utterly malicious for the officials of the Arroyo regime to keep on violating her right to private and family life by disregarding her marriage to Mr. Buendia and harping in the mass media on her alleged personal relations with professor Jose Maria Sison nearly 40 years ago," he said.

Sison, who has been living in exile in the Netherlands since the late 1980s, is married to Juliet de Lima.

Jalandoni claimed Buendia was "a close relative" of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and "is also related to some other legislators of Pangasinan and La Union."

Gossip, spin

He urged the media "not to be a vehicle of malicious and impertinent gossip," adding that the Arroyo administration was "obviously" engaged in a "desperate spin" to claim a "Left-Right conspiracy" and connect the communists to the hotel takeover.

Meanwhile, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza has reiterated her call on the Philippine National Police to release Buendia, the only remaining female civilian being held in connection with the Peninsula Manila incident.

Maza said the PNP was using the 63-year-old Buendia to come up with a leftist-rightist conspiracy angle in the Trillanes affair.

Gabriela in a statement said Buendia was "only having coffee" at the Peninsula when the incident happened.

Let her go

"It is utterly malicious and chauvinist for the Philippine National Police to keep Myrna—a woman in her sixties and suffering from various illnesses—in their custody and use her as a pawn just so they can concoct their bankrupt left-right conspiracy theory," Maza said.

The party-list group said Buendia was a retired businesswoman, a former director of the Employees Confederation of the Philippines, an executive of the Chinese General Hospital and a news writer for ABS-CBN before martial law.

Buendia was also a political detainee during the early years of martial law.

Maza said there was no reason for the PNP to further detain Buendia.

WHAT'S INSIDE

PNP INVITES media to second dialogue /A4

STRONG PESO could lead to layoffs, warns solon /A4

RP, ASIAN nations meeting in Bali to act on coral loss /A9

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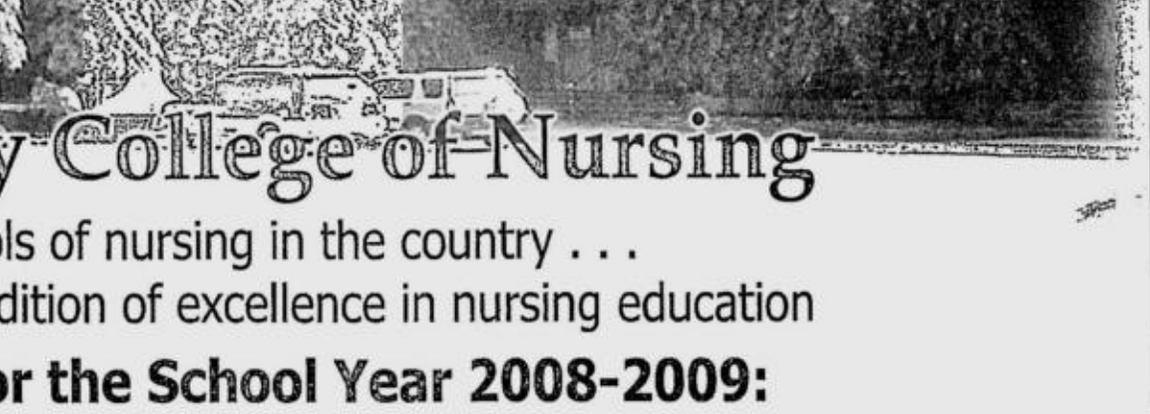

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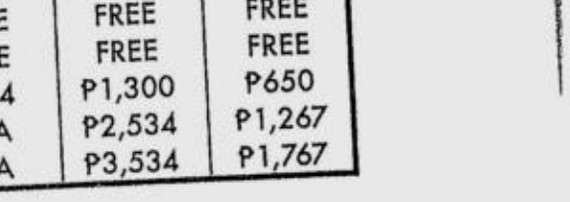

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SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

Let's talk again, cops tell media

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POlice wants media to return to the discussion table so they can thresh out their differences on the issue of media coverage during police operations, in the aftermath of the failed coup at the Peninsula Manila hotel on Nov. 29.

Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said he would seek another dialogue with the media as he thought the first meeting failed to produce any tangible results.

"*Bitin e* (It was left hanging). There were some things that needed to be clarified but were not touched on. It would be good if we can get back together again and talk. So we are inviting them again," Barias said.

Bridge differences

On Dec. 7, media executives, mainly officials of the ABS-CBN television network, met in a dialogue with government officials led by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Zamora and PNP Director General Avelino Razon, in an attempt to bridge their differences over the police treatment of journalists who had covered the Peninsula standoff.

The two-hour dialogue, which took place at the Peninsula, was organized by Malacañang and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas, in the wake of the media outcry over the arrest of some 30 journalists, along with the revolt's ringleaders Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

During the dialogue, the media representatives protested the arrest and cuffing of their colleagues, while Puno said that the journalists were arrested because of their "consistent and persistent refusal" to heed police requests to leave the hotel as an assault was under way.

Obstruction of justice

He said the physical presence of the members of the media constituted "obstruction of justice" and warned the same thing could happen again.

Yesterday, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao explained that the PNP leadership had planned on organizing its own media dialogue but scrapped the plan in favor of the Malacañang-sponsored event.

But now that the first dialogue was over, Pagdilao said it was a simple manner of reviving the PNP's original plan.

Pagdilao said this time around, he hoped the two sides would come up with a "joint protocol" on media coverage during similar situations, as has been done in other countries.

He said the PNP will again contact the KBP, the Philippine Press Institute, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR).

Maria Ressa, ABS-CBN vice president for news and public affairs, said the network would welcome another dialogue with the police.

She said she hoped an agreement could be struck by the two sides.

Ressa observed that the first dialogue showed there was disagreement on whether the members of the media were obstructing justice or not.

Core issue

"We never stop them [the police] from doing their job. The core issue here is when they accuse us of getting in their way," Ressa said.

But she recognized that it might be difficult for the two sides to see eye-to-eye on the issue.

"If they insist media is guilty of obstruction of justice, that is a new precedent. Our concern is the public's right to know. When that right is shut down, it has an impact on our democracy. That is why we need constant dialogue here," she said.

PCPO

OLE!
Spanish children dance for President Macapagal-Arroyo and her party at the Almonte Municipal Office where she inaugurated the Spanish-Philippine Cultural Center of Almonte building which is a replica of the Baler church in the Philippines. Among the Filipino officials with the President were Sen. Ed Angara (third from right) and Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone (left). The President toured Almonte and offered flowers at the Hereos de Baler Monument.

Strong peso could lead to layoffs, solon warns

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE peso against the US dollar has not only affected the families of overseas Filipino workers but may lead to layoffs, especially in the export sector, unless the government intervenes, a senator warned yesterday.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce, assailed the government for ignoring the complaint of dollar-earning OFWs and exporters the past several months.

Government help

Roxas said the government should help the sectors that have been affected by the rising strength of the peso against the dollar.

He said he was dismayed by news reports that quoted President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying the government would not intervene to arrest the peso's gains.

"Where's the social payback due our people? OFWs and exporters have been complaining for months about decreased incomes and have been demanding action from their government to ease their plight," Roxas said.

He said that if not addressed, the situation "could lead in the medium-term to the displacement of workers in the export sector and (in domestic industries that) produce goods consumed locally."

"The government cannot afford to be oblivious not just to the immediate hardships of our 8 million OFWs (and their families) and 3.5 million exporters but also to the real threat of lost incomes and jobs in local industries due to this continuing trend," he said.

Steady climb

The peso has steadily climbed against the dollar in the last two years, closing at P41.74 before the weekend, or 16 percent stronger than the P49.13 exchange rate at end-2006.

The peso is at its strongest since May 2000 when the exchange rate was P41.73 per dollar.

Roxas acknowledged, however, that the stronger peso had helped reduce the government's foreign debt and buffered local pump prices against the skyrocketing world price of oil.

Profits shrink

But, he pointed out, exporters as a result have seen their dollar-denominated profits shrink.

Local industries producing goods for local consumption could also take a hit from the entry of already-cheap competing imported goods and gain an additional price advantage due to the strong peso, Roxas said.

"I'd like to see a concrete workable plan on how to deal with the possible shutting down of firms and factories or even massive layoffs in case of a further strengthening of the peso that would put local goods at a disadvantage against those from abroad," Roxas said.

Fuel, LPG prices all rise

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS RAISED GASOLINE, diesel and kerosene fuel prices by 50 centavos a liter and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by P1.12 centavos a kilogram over the weekend.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. increased prices at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, the first one to do so. Its lead was followed by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Flying V at noon.

Total (Philippines) Corp. raised the price of its LPG at 6 a.m., then the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene at noon. Chevron Philippines Inc. set new prices at 6 p.m. the same day.

Prices of premium unleaded gasoline now range between P42.53 and P45.77 a liter, diesel between P34.91 and P38.58 a liter, kerosene between P39.36 and P41.91 a liter, and 11-kilo LPG cylinders between P554.36 and P633.30.

Eastern Petroleum chair and chief executive Fernando Martinez said gains from the recent appreciation of the peso against the US dollar were not enough to offset increases in the prices of gasoline and diesel in the world market last month.

With the importation cost of gasoline going up by $12 a barrel and diesel by $14 a barrel from October to November, he said, oil firms, particularly the "pure-product" importers, still had to recover around P3 a liter.

According to the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude price dropped slightly to $83.45 a barrel on the first three days of December from $86.87 a barrel last month. In October, the Dubai crude price was pegged at only $77.12 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products fell to an average of $96.27 a barrel on Dec. 3, compared to the average price in November of $100.29 a barrel. The average price was only $88.71 in October.

The price of diesel fuel on the MOPS also went down to an average of $106.38 a barrel in Dec. 1 to Dec. 3, from an average of $110.19 a barrel last month. October's average was $95.47 a barrel.

The international contract price of LPG rose to an all-time high of $877.50 per metric ton (MT) in December, $130 higher than the November contract price of $747.50.

12 Abu convicts moved to Bilibid

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWELVE OF THE 14 ABU Sayyaf bandits convicted of the 2001 Dos Palmas resort kidnappings were transferred yesterday to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City.

Metro Manila District Jail warden Supt. Edgar Bolcio said heavily armed escorts transported the bandits late yesterday afternoon to the New Bilibid Prisons, two days after their conviction.

"We had adequate security preparations for any untoward incident during their transfer," Bolcio told the INQUIRER.

Bolcio declined to give specific information about the escorts provided by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, citing security concerns.

Only 12 of the 14 convicted Abu Sayyaf members were transferred to the maximum security compound of the NBP as others have kidnapping for ransom cases pending before the courts.

Two other convicts who still have to undergo trials on different kidnapping for ransom charges—Daud Baru ("Daud Daim") and Marvin Vincent Rueca ("Balik Islam")—will remain at the MMDJ, according to Bolcio.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits on Thursday were convicted of participating in the 2001 Dos Palmas kidnapping that left five hostages dead, including American missionary Martin Burnham.

Judge Lorifel Lacap-Pahinma of Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 69 sentenced each of them to 20 counts of reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment.

She also ordered the bandits to pay their victims or their heirs from P50,000 to P300,000 in moral and exemplary damages.

Pahinma, however, acquitted four others, saying their participation in the conspiracy to kidnap 20 people at the resort in Palawan was not proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Among those acquitted was Satra Tilao, the younger sister of slain Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Aldam Tilao, or Abu Sabaya.

Medical tests

The 12 convicts, upon arrival at the NBP, will be given medical tests to determine their physical condition before they are transferred to the maximum security compound.

The maximum security compound holds high security-risk prisoners and those sentenced to life imprisonment.

"These convicts are not ordinary convicts. We have to take extra care to prevent untoward incidents as they are moved from Camp Bagong Diwa (in Taguig City) to the NBP," Bolcio said.

He said he received the commitment order from Pahinma late Thursday afternoon and that they planned to transport the bandits as early as Friday.

However, the transfer was deferred because of heavy traffic that day, Bolcio said.

NEO

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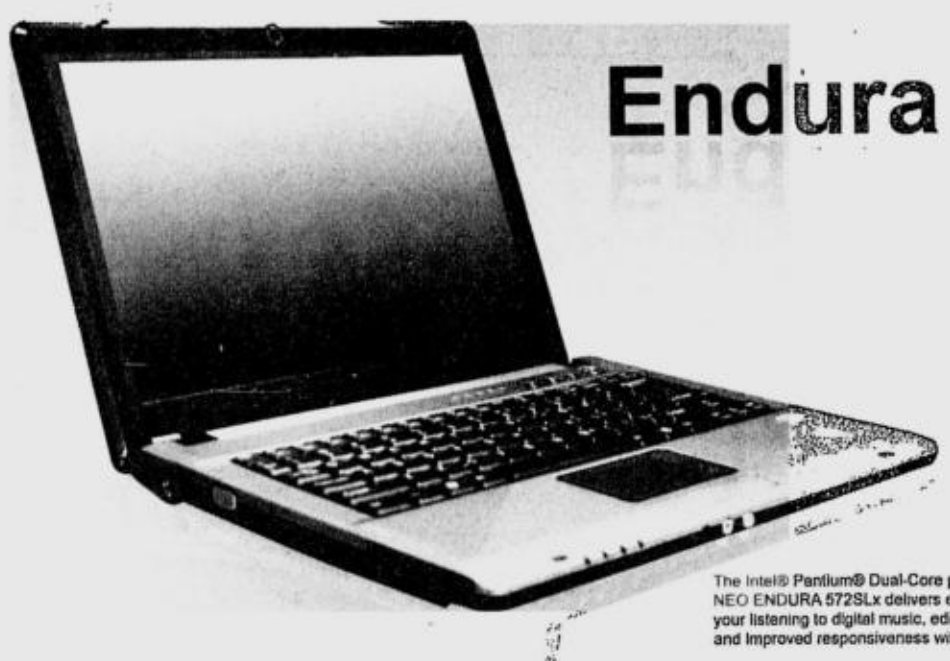

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Prelate rallies flock vs QC health measure

By Beverly T. Natividad

CALLING IT "ANTILIFE," A CATHOLIC prelate has opposed the passage of a proposed health measure authored by a Quezon City councilor that imperiled "the sanctity of human life and the family."

In a circular, Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco told his flock the proposed city ordinance authored by Councilor Joseph Juico was "cleverly crafted" to appear as a reproductive health and population management law but actually pushed for abortion and the use of abortifacients, branding them as "safe" abortion methods.

"As your shepherd, I admonish you to defend the sanctity of human life and the family that are now in tremendous danger," Ongtioco said.

He criticized the measure that would make compulsory the teaching of contraceptive methods to students in the elementary grades and high school. The worst thing about it, he said, was that violators of the policy stood to face imprisonment and fines.

Conscientious right to object

In an interview on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines online news network, cbcponline.net, Ongtioco said the Church could not remain silent on the issue given its seriousness.

"We strongly oppose this proposed ordinance for Quezon City because it kills the unborn children, causes deadly cancers, destroys the Catholic educational formation of our youth," he said.

Ongtioco said passing the bill woud take away the people's right to the free exercise of a correct conscience and their right to freedom of worship in the Catholic faith.

He was concerned, he said, not only because the Church opposed contraception but because lives would be adversely affected if the use of contraceptives was allowed.

Ongtioco urged the faithful to use their conscientious right to object.

"We need to be vigilant now as Catholics, firmly and faithfully believing in the truth handed down to us from the Lord Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church," he said.

He called on his flock to hold prayer rallies to prevent the passage of the ordinance, which is due for a public hearing. He also asked the priests in the diocese to deliver homilies on the ordinance as frequently as possible.

"Let us be ready to hold prayer rallies if and when so needed to prevent the passage of this deadly ordinance," he said in the circular.

Juico's ordinance wants to make mandatory the inclusion of reproductive health and sex education in school curriculums in Quezon City. If the ordinance passes, topics like responsible sexuality and reproductive health rights will be taught to students between Grade 5 and 4th year high school.

The proposed measure also aims to prevent unwanted pregnancies and abortion practices. One of its sections, for example, provides for the "humane" and "nonjudgmental" treatment and counseling of women who seek care for post-abortion complications.

PCSO, others cited for aiding the deaf

INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT have helped the hearing-impaired lead normal, productive lives have been honored by Medical Electronics (Med-El) Asia Pacific Region which celebrated its 10th anniversary on Dec. 1. The event also served as a reunion of about 100 cochlear implant users nationwide.

Recipients of the Outstanding Public Service Awards included the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, ABS-CBN and its anchor Korina Sanchez, and Filipino pioneer cochlear implant surgeons Dr. Norberto Martinez and Dr. Charlotte Chiong.

Dr. Eliza Baroque, manager of the PCSO charity clinic department, represented PCSO chair Sergio Valencia at the rites. The PCSO over the years has donated funds for operations on indigent deaf children.

ABS-CBN and Sanchez were honored for programs that raised public awareness on the potentials of the hearing impaired.

Med-El Asia Pacific country manager Maribel Mueller presented the awards, assisted by Dr. Erwin Hockmair, chair of the Department of Applied Physics at Innsbruck University in Austria and Austrian Ambassador to the Philippines Herbert Jaeger. Hockmair, who invented the Med-el cochlear implant, flew in from Austria for the occasion.

As part of the anniversary observance, Med-El donated a cochlear implant device to Hannah Dorothy Pagarigan, 6, daughter of Raymund M. Pagarigan, a tricycle driver. Hannah has been a scholar beneficiary of Med-el since 2004 at St. Francis School VSA Arts Philippines.

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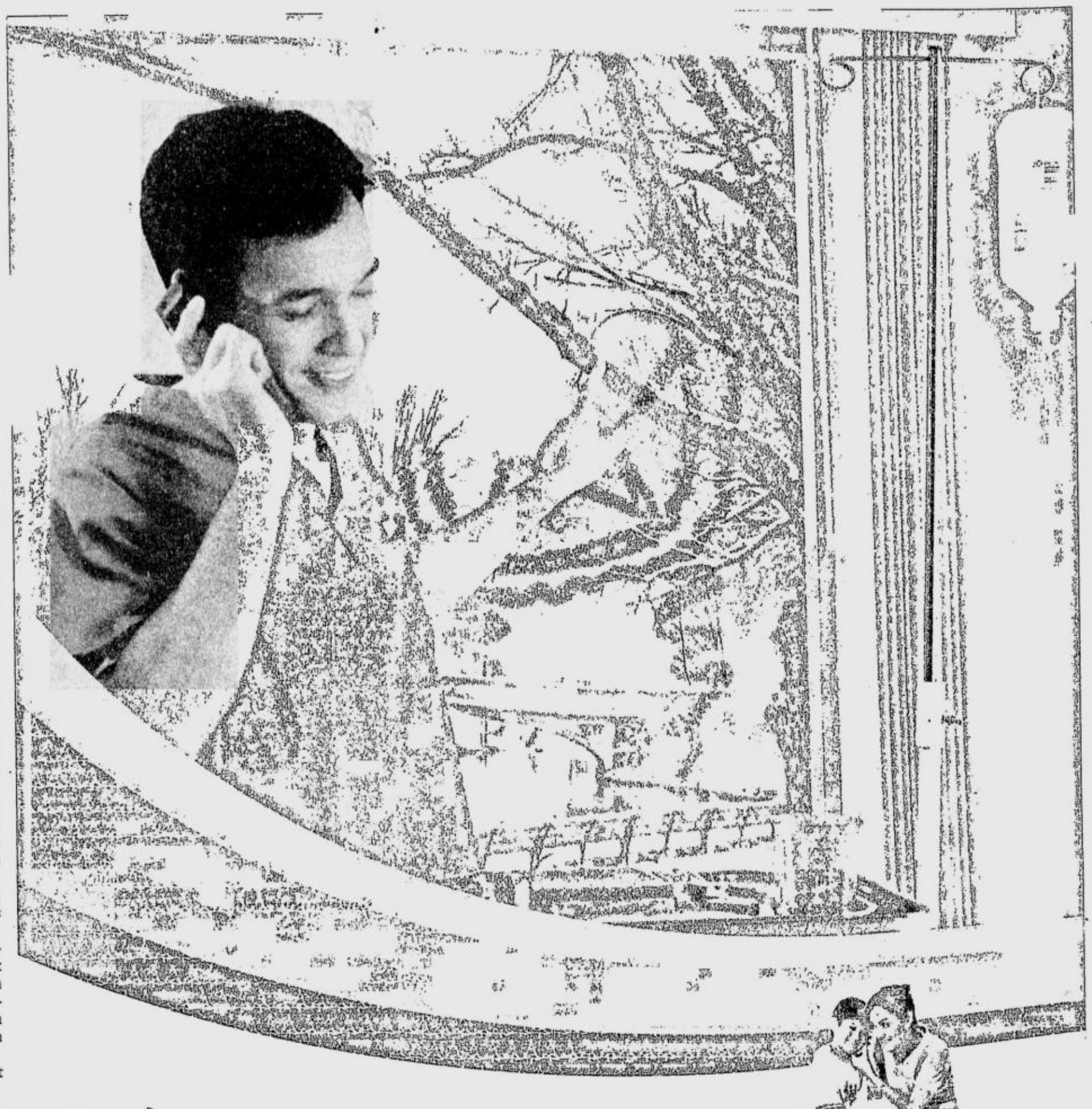

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LINGGO NG KABATAAN 2007

Youth Invade the Government

December 10-16

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

MESSAGE

Warmest felicitations to the men and women of the **National Youth Commission (NYC)** as you celebrate *"Linggo ng Kabataan."*

The NYC has been at the forefront of our efforts to mold our youths into responsible and effective leaders. Through this event, which will focus on preparing our youths to assume executive and legislative functions, you also promote their understanding of the true meaning of public service and nationalism.

I am with you in raising our youth's awareness on the need for a united action in response to the current issues concerning our country and our people. Let us work as one to bring about positive and substantial reforms in our society.

May you have a meaningful Linggo ng Kabataan and Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

MESSAGE

Greetings to our Filipino Youths and congratulations on the occasion of your three-week celebration of the *"Linggo ng Kabataan."*

Indeed, it is a great endeavor on the part of the National Youth Commission (NYC) to take an active role in organizing activities that will enhance the Filipino youth's love of our country and public service.

Inculcating in the minds of our youth the importance of public service and patriotism is a great step towards the betterment of our beloved Philippines. For the youth is the future of this country. *Sila, bilang-araw, ang mamumuno sa ating bansa patungo sa hinahangad nating kaunlaran.*

Your celebration of the "Linggo ng Kabataan" actualizes the country's need for the nation's youth to be aware of the benefits of public service and to exercise patriotism proudly. In a world gone global, where cyberspace, Internet services, computers and MTVs have become household words for our youth, there is indeed a need for them to go back to the basics of being involved with nation-building through public service.

Again, my congratulations and best wishes.

MANNY VILLAR

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA cor. Mapagmahal St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MESSAGE

On behalf of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, I would like to convey my warmest felicitations to the **National Youth Commission on the occasion of the three-week celebration of the "Linggo ng Kabataan" on November 26 December 14 this year.**

We can never underestimate the role of the youth in national development. Youth involvement in local governance has proven its numerous benefits in nation-building.

Through this Linggo ng Kabataan, it is my hope that you will continue to come up with programs that will further fortify the role of the youth in building a Strong Republic

More power and God Bless!

RONALDO V. PUNO
Secretary

Office of the President of the Philippines
National Youth Commission
Malacañang, Manila

MESSAGE

In all significant periods in our country's history, the Filipino youth played an important role. This has not changed. The nation still expects much from the youth.

Thus, the National Youth Commission continues to develop policies and initiate programs that will prepare our youth for the tasks ahead. This year's Linggo ng Kabataan opens the door for our outstanding youth leaders to get a life-defining experience in public service.

May the experience indeed mold our youth into a worthy partner in nation-building! Our faith in the youth is unshaken!

Mabuhay ang Kabataang Pilipino!

RICHARD ALVIN M. NALUPTA
Undersecretary
Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

National Youth Commission Officials

RICHARD ALVIN M. NALUPTA
Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer
Undersecretary

PRISCILLA MARIE T. ABANTE
Commissioner-at Large
Assistant Secretary

MICHAEL FRANCIS A. LOPEZ
Commissioner- at Large
Assistant Secretary

MOHAMMAD HANNY M. CAMID
Commissioner Representing Mindanao
Assistant Secretary

BENJIE S. OLIVA
Commissioner Representing Visayas
Assistant Secretary

RAUL DOMINIC I. BADILLA
Commissioner Representing Luzon
Assistant Secretary

MILTON ISAGANI MENDADOR
Ex-Officio Commissioner
SK National Federation President

APOLONIO B. MALENIZA II
Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President

MENSAHE

Malugod na pagbati at pagpupugay sa pamunuan at mga kawani ng **National Youth Commission (NYC)** sa pangunguna ninyo sa pagdiriwang ng "Linggo ng Kabataan" ngayong ika-26 ng Nobyembre hanggang ika-14 ng Disyembre 2007.

Nalikha ang inyong tanggapan sa bisa ng Republic Act 8044 na may pangunahing layunin na palakasin at patatagin ang kabataang Pilipino upang sila'y maging bahagi at kaagapay sa pagtataguyod ng ating bansa. Napakahalagang papel ang inyong ginagampanan sa ating lipunan sa paghuhubog at pagtuturo sa kabataang Pilipino ng diwa ng pagkamakabayan at kahandaang tumugon sa mga pangangailangan ng ating bansa.

Ipinahihiwatig ng ating pambansang bayani na si Gat. Jose Rizal ang kahalagahan ng papel ng kabataan para makamit ang ating mga pambansang adhikain. Kaya naman mahalaga na maintindihan ng wasto at maayos ng ating mga kabataan ang mga pangyayari sa ating lipunan sapagkat nakasalalay sa kanilang mesidhing paniniwala at paninindigan ang pag-asa ng ating bayan. Kaagapay ang mga magulang, umaasa ako na mapagtatagumpayan ninyo ang pagbibigay-patnubay at direksyon sa kabataang Pilipino, ganon din ang pagpapatupad ng mga programang magpapayaman sa kanilang kakayahan.

Kalsa ninyo ako sa inyong mga gawain at layunin para sa ating mga kabataan.

Mabuhay ang NYC at ang Kabataang Pilipino!

NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

MESSAGE

Warm greetings to the officers, members, guests and participants of the National Youth Commission's "Linggo ng Kabataan" three week-long celebration from November 26 to December 14, 2007.

The youth carry our hopes and dreams for a better world. No less than our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, sew of the huge promise and potential of the youth as contributors to national growth.

The protection and promotion of rights of the young are of paramount importance, such as their health care and education, shelter and clean environment, legal equality, freedom of speech, freedom from discrimination, violence and abuse, hunger and fear.

In the House of Representatives, we continue to espouse the cause of the youth through legislation such as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act, or Republic Act 9262, which safeguards victims from further abuse through a protection order, and which can also be filed by the *barangay*, police, and citizens for the victims.

Another is the Juvenile and Welfare Act of 2006, or Republic Act 9344, which exempts child offenders 15 years of age and below from capital punishment and criminal liability and are, instead, sent for rehabilitation.

I hope that through this event, our youth will realize the important role they play in helping achieve our national ambition for lasting peace, progress and stability.

I wish you a successful gathering!

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MESSAGE

The Dangerous Drugs Board joins the entire nation in observing "Linggo ng Kabataan," an occasion that is laden with activities that prepare them for their future roles.

Where others have grown jaded, the youth have persistently pushed for the ideal, believed in possibilities, and driven towards lofty goals.

Soon enough, the same spirited generation will replace the leaders of today and steer the country towards being prosperous, even drug-free.

The DDB, indeed, sees them as strong allies and a potent force in the campaign against drugs. With all of us working together, there is no doubt that we will attain our noble vision of a drug-free Philippines soon.

Mabuhay ang ating kabataan!

Secretary ANSELMO S. AVENIDO JR.
Chairperson, Dangerous Drugs Board

Office of the President of the Philippines
National Youth Commission
Malacañang, Manila

MESSAGE

As we celebrate this year's Linggo ng Kabataan, we share our excitement with and extend our appreciation to the people and to the partner institutions that have helped make it possible.

The Linggo ng Kabataan as provided for in Sec 439 of the Local Government Code was revitalized by elevating it in the national level through an immersion program hosted by the offices of the House of Representatives, Senate of the Philippines and the Office of the President wherein youth participants served as junior congressmen, senators and cabinet members.

The celebration aims to increase the knowledge, skills and appropriate values and good citizenship of youth participants in terms of policy development, advocacy and governance. It also heightens the participant awareness on various governmental processes and issues affecting the youth sector.

On the occasion of the 1st National Linggo ng Kabataan Celebration, we join our partners to recommit in serving the young Filipino people through leadership opportunities in governance and development.

Mabuhay ang Kabataang Pilipino!

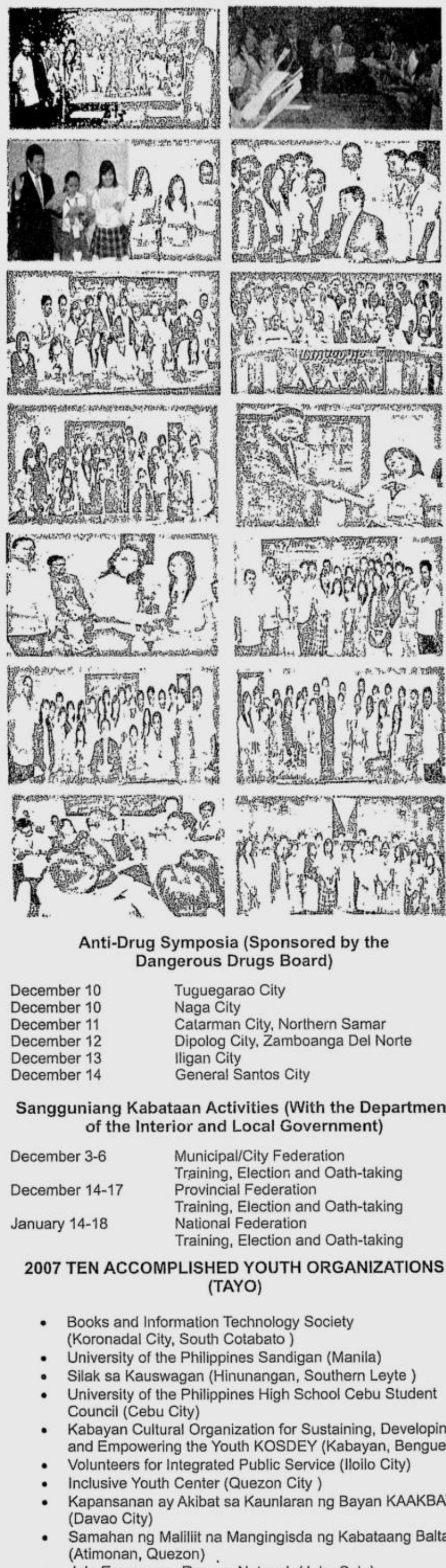
November 23, 2007

BENJIE S. OLIVA
Assistant Secretary
Commissioner representing Visayas
Chairperson, National Linggo ng Kabataan National
Organizing Committee

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Boy and Girl Officials

November 26-December 2	House of Representatives
December 3-9	Senate of the Philippines
December 10-16	Malacañang Palace



Anti-Drug Symposia (Sponsored by the Dangerous Drugs Board)

December 10	Tuguegarao City
December 10	Naga City
December 11	Catarman City, Northern Samar
December 12	Dipolog City, Zamboanga Del Norte
December 13	Iligan City
December 14	General Santos City

Sangguniang Kabataan Activities (With the Department of the Interior and Local Government)

December 3-6	Municipal/City Federation Training, Election and Oath-taking
December 14-17	Provincial Federation Training, Election and Oath-taking
January 14-18	National Federation Training, Election and Oath-taking

2007 TEN ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (TAYO)

- Books and Information Technology Society (Koronadal City, South Cotabato)
- University of the Philippines Sandigan (Manila)
- Silak sa Kauswagan (Hinunangan, Southern Leyte)
- University of the Philippines High School Cebu Student Council (Cebu City)
- Kabayan Cultural Organization for Sustaining, Developing and Empowering the Youth KOSDEY (Kabayan, Benguet)
- Volunteers for Integrated Public Service (Iloilo City)
- Inclusive Youth Center (Quezon City)
- Kapansanan ay Akibat sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan KAAKBAY (Davao City)
- Samahan ng Malilit na Mangingisda ng Kabataang Baltak (Atimonan, Quezon)
- Jolo Emergency Rescue Network (Jolo, Sulu)

Now on its fifth year, the TAYO Search continues to inspire youth servant-leaders all over the country. TAYO is a joint project of the National Youth Commission; Office of Sen. Kiko Pangilinan; TAYO Awards Foundation; Smart Communications; Coca-Cola Foundation, Philippines; and TeaM Energy Foundation

LINGGO NG KABATAAN 2007
Partners and Supporters

- Office of the President of the Philippines
- Office of the Vice President of the Philippines
- Senate of the Philippines
- House of Representatives
- House Committee on Youth and Sports
- Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita
- Senator Francis Pangilinan
- Secretary Ricardo Saludo
- Department of Education
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
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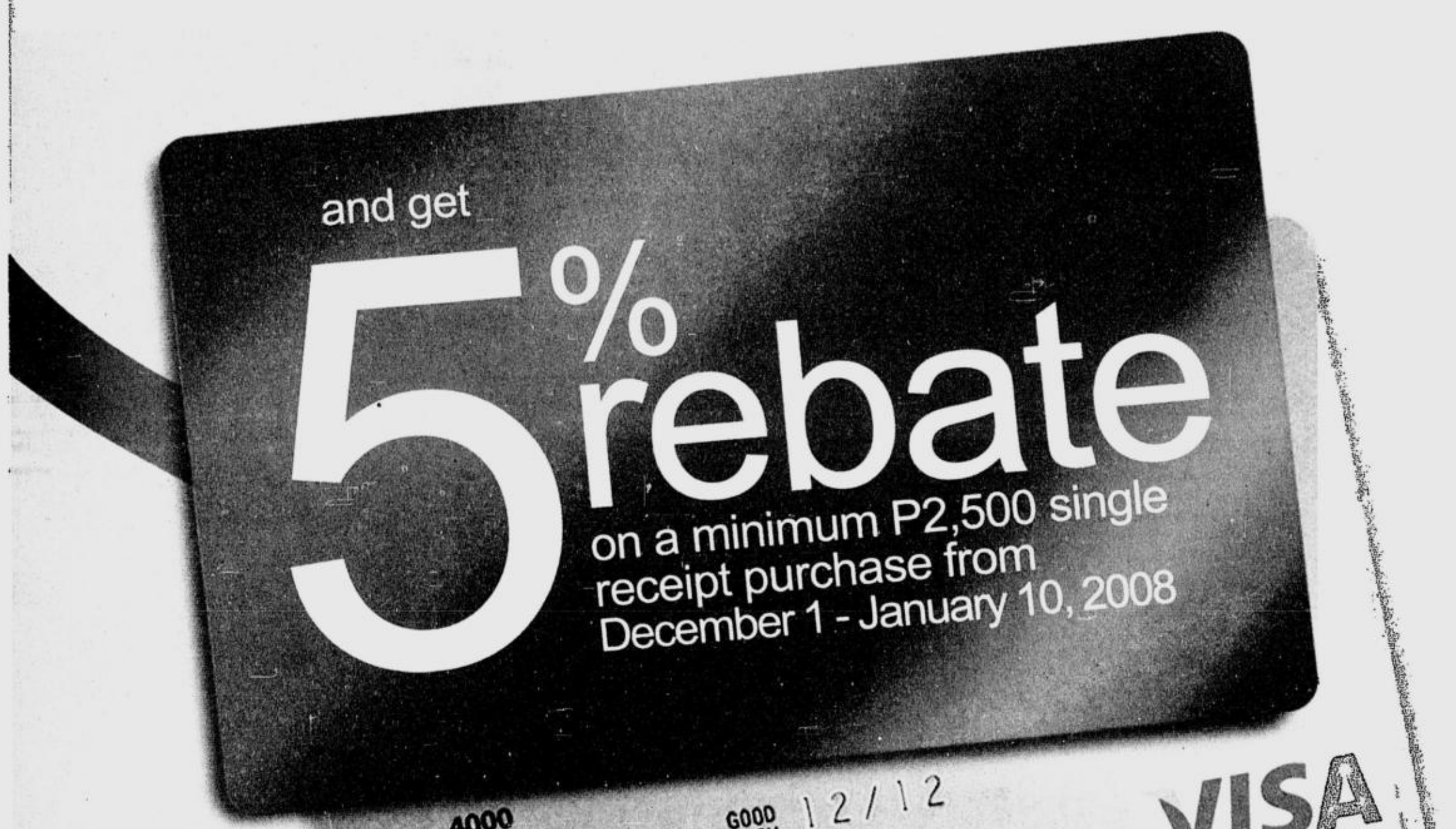

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Frontline Leadership: 5 local execs show how

From page A1

Each subject has a chapter discussing their rise in politics, their accomplishments and toughest challenges, and even the criticisms leveled at them. Ortega and Barbers, for example, had earned brickbats for their "dynastic" family background, De la Cruz for her perceived penchant for foreign travels, and Robredo for his "stinginess" as a gift-giver at weddings, baptisms, fiestas, etc.

MARY JANE ORTEGA, former San Fernando, La Union mayor

JOSIE DE LA CRUZ, former Bulacan governor

ROBERT LYNDON BARBERS, former Surigao del Norte gov

JESSE ROBREDO, Naga mayor now on his sixth term.

No halos

The book does not put a halo over the heads of the featured leaders, but rather showcases the concrete results of their efforts and their varying administrative styles.

"These are stories of resourceful officials who have endeavored to soar ahead even when they hovered over a sea of troubles in politics and personal life," its blurb reads.

Dr. Angelita Gregorio-Medel, project director, added in an interview: "They make compromises, but within limits that allow them to remain true to their beliefs and principles, their non-negotiables."

Robredo, now on his sixth term as mayor, is credited with "transforming [his] once quiet, nondescript small city into the bustling urban center that sets Naga City apart from the rest of Bicolandia."

Naga's economy has grown so steadily under his watch that its average household income has risen 42 percent more than the national average and 126 percent higher than the Bicol average, the book notes.

The city's fiscal prudence and bureaucratic efficiency have enabled it to surpass "longtime rival" Legazpi City in terms of investments: It now has about 5,000 business establishments, compared to the more than 2,000 in Legazpi.

Naga's telephone per household ratio of 1:1 is now even higher than Metro Manila's current ratio of 1:3.

Highs and lows

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also cited Naga as the country's Most Business-Friendly City for 2002, 2003 and 2005, elevating it to the Hall of Fame.

During Ortega's three terms as mayor, San Fernando City (SFC) was adjudged No. 1 in the Asian Institute of Management's list of "Competitive [Small] Cities."

The book says in part: "Adult literacy is high. There is a large selection of higher learning institutions. Infant mortality is low and incidence of theft is low.

"Tourism [has] invigorated economic activity, with the Botanical Garden, Bacsil Bridge and the like as main tourist spots. SFC is noted for its excellent communication facilities."

According to the city government website, SFC had achieved, as early as 2003, a 95-percent employment rate, 88-percent household access to piped water and 91.8-percent household access to electricity.

For Bulacan, the book particularly notes "a source of pride" for then Governor De la Cruz in the field of peace and order.

During her watch, the province was said to have achieved one of the country's lowest crime rates at 7.08 incidents per population of 100,000.

In 2005, the city government's anti-illegal gambling drive led to 165 arrests and the filing of 95 cases. That same year 1,178 drug pushers and users were arrested and some P1.7 million worth of drugs was confiscated.

'Hitler'

The chapter on Barbers dwells candidly on his disciplinary, three-strikes-you're-out approach.

"When he assumed office, Barbers immediately earned the moniker 'Hitler' or 'estrikto,'" the book reads. "His first term was particularly stormy ... a kind of love-hate affair with the heads of the line agencies as well as the rank-and-file in the various units."

It soon became clear, especially among his closest staff, that certain behaviors were "unacceptable" to Barbers, who had early on declared that he would run the capitol with a "corporate attitude" and not with the laxity and indulgence of a traditional politician.

It was also observed how it was "difficult" for the US-educated Barbers "to adjust to the so-called Filipino time, used as he was to being on the dot."

In his office he kept a "strike board," a kind of scoreboard or checklist to keep track of his staff's "tardiness, absences and mistakes."

4 rules

In line with that chart was his "Four Rules of the Provincial Governor's Office."

Rule 1 read: "Do not give the Governor problems without solutions."

Rule 2: "All instructions from the Governor should be followed unless it will damage the personality and image of the concerned staff."

Rule 3 was about Barbers' three-strikes policy on tardiness, absences and mistakes: "One is enough. Two is too much. Three cannot be—you're out."

Rule 4, the "General Rule," governs all others: "The Governor is always right. If the Governor is wrong, please refer to [the previous line]."

Those who disobeyed the rules were "sent on 'exile' to hardship postings, like the provincial jail or one of the islands. In most cases, they learn," the book quotes Barbers as saying.

The then governor also claimed: "I refuse invitations to crown local [beauty pageant] queens. I don't like it when women are promoted like commodities, especially when people are looking forward to one thing—the bikini swimsuit portion."

'Micro-manager'

The fifth subject of the book, the anonymous local executive from the Visayas, is described as someone who has retired from politics, for health reasons.

(This former governor was not named because the protocol to obtain her approval of the final text was not completed, according to Ateneo's academic program manager, Dr. Dennis Gonzalez.)

The book takes particular interest in the ways by which she discharged her duties. It notes, for instance, that she handed out checks to her town or barangay leaders only during public functions—like fiestas—to ensure many "witnesses."

She was apparently so meticulous as a "micro-manager" that she corrected the grammar and syntax of her staff's paperwork, and even had a say on the color of the tablecloth used in functions.

Known for her "hands-on" mindset, she seldom relied on field reports to be updated on the status of public works projects. She herself visited the work sites and covered "85 percent" of a town doing so.

And returning from each trip, she astonished her staff with her "prodigious memory" of the people she had met. Without benefit of notes, she could recall the names of the pregnant women, or that of a constituent whose mother had fallen ill, or the color of a grandmother's dress on a particular day.

Circles of consensus

In his remarks, Nebres observed that when the Ateneo School of Government was set up 10 years ago, "we especially decided that we would focus on local government, because we believe reform in the Philippines is best achieved through local governments."

When mayors begin to take charge of public schools rather than work through the Department of Education, for instance, "things begin to move," he said.

"I always get into arguments as to why [we didn't] also look into national government," Nebres said. To this query he would often say: 'If you have [worked around the Philippines], you would realize how fragmented the country is because of language and geography.'"

Added Nebres: "Circles of consensus are very difficult to achieve on the national level. You are more likely to achieve circles of consensus and circles of trust—which are essential to governance—on the local level. And these are very essential if you are going to get things done.

"The mayors and governors [featured in the book] got things done, even if sometimes not everybody was happy with it. But I hope in the end people recognize it and say that, OK, there was a price to be paid, but everybody was better off."

Naia video ...

From page A1

masko (Christmas gift) from "Santa Claus."

Santa Claus was Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr. who handed out P1,000 each in cash to airport workers when he saw off his son and other relatives to Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

His son is Datu Zaldy Uy Ampatuan, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), has ordered an investigation into the incident that, witnesses said, caused a frenzy in the departure area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1.

"We are reviewing the video ... We are now checking those people who abandoned their posts. [They] will be subjected to administrative charges," Cusi said yesterday.

300 in line

He immediately ordered a check of closed circuit television footage at the old terminal's departure area, where some 300 airport workers were said to have rushed to line up for the Ampatuans' surprise Christmas bonus at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

The Ampatuans' staff had reportedly announced that the governors would be giving away cash gifts to airport employees. This created a frantic rush to queue near the departure area's VIP lounge, where the governors were accommodated.

Witnesses said the line extended from the VIP lounge, past the Duty Free shops, all the way to the pre-boarding waiting area.

"I learned that the governors even called the toilet attendants and gave them cash. But I was told that less than 300 employees received P1,000 ... It was not that many," Cusi told reporters in Filipino.

He added that his office would check if those who lined up included Miaa employees.

Those spotted queuing were said to be police officers, security guards, airline workers and Miaa personnel who were near the VIP lounge at the time of the surprise handouts.

Not here, please

Cusi has a special message for officials and VIPs who wish to spread cheer to airport workers this season: "Please, not at the airport. Do it in a more appropriate place. Do not go around asking people to fall in line. That should not be done at the airport," he said.

OFW families reveal secrets of enduring ties despite distance

From page A1

weekends from different ports in many parts of the world.

In the case of seaman Oscar de Jesus and domestic helper Virgencita Lagunsay, touching base with their spouses and children takes the more traditional form: Snail mail, voice tapes and postcards.

But the moment they get home for months-long vacations, they make up for lost time by "bonding" with their families at home, or in out-of-town excursions.

Follow parents' lead

The setup must have worked so well that after De Jesus and Lagunsay decided to quit their jobs, their children followed their lead and went to work for their former employers.

The Atuel, De Jesus and Lagunsay families are this year's recipients of the Model OFW Family of the Year Award (Mofya) for Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

This is the third year that the awards, sponsored by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, are being given out. This year's awards, given last Wednesday at the Philamlife Theater in Manila, focused on the theme of successful family relations.

"We decided to give equal, parallel recognition to the families who are left behind to cope with the challenges in making the Filipino family whole," Owwa Administrator Marianito Roque said in his opening remarks.

Vice President Noli de Castro said the three champions and the 14 regional winners should be emulated by other OFW families.

"Nothing compares to the joy that comes from intact family relations. Apart from the spiritual peace, there is a greater peace that comes from a happy and harmonious family," he said.

Each awardee received a trophy, a Toyota Avanza and a Nokia 5070 telephone from Globe Telecom; a $2,000 investment package from Philamlife, two free tickets from Cebu Pacific for domestic destinations, and gift checks from Banco de Oro.

These were on top of the P25,000 given by Western Union to all the regional winners.

Best of friends

Corazon Atuel, 47, an agriculturist with the Department of Agriculture, shared the secret of enduring family relations: She, her husband and their seven children made a pact to treat one another as friends.

"We're the best of friends," she said in an interview after the award ceremonies.

"I've always told them [the children] that we their parents should be their best friends," she said.

At the Atuel home in Ubay, Bohol, giving presents and exchanging letters and notes are the usual practice during special occasions.

Four Atuel children are in college, one in high school and two in grade school. The eldest is a medical technologist who is taking up medicine as a second course.

A BAND OF FRIENDS: Corazon Atuel (center) and her seaman husband, Capt.Eugenio Atuel, who works in Jeddah, treat each other and their seven children like the best of friends. Which is the secret of the happy family.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Virgencita Lagunsay, 56, a domestic helper who worked for a royal family in Doha, Qatar, from 1985 to 1996, said she encouraged the same kind of relationship with her children—two of whom are schoolteachers, one a nurse and another a midwife.

"We treat one another like friends or siblings. When a problem crops up, we talk it out, we do sharing," she said.

The Lagunsays live in Aplaya, Digos City.

25 years overseas

Oscar de Jesus, 55, regrets not being around when his three children were growing up.

"Even though they're all grown up now, I still hug them," said De Jesus, who worked overseas for 25 years.

He initially worked for a steel company in Saudi Arabia from 1981 to 1986. He then shifted trades, and for the next 19 years until he retired last April, worked on various ships as a machinist-fitter who fixed engines.

De Jesus credits his wife Novelyn with keeping the family together. One child is a civil engineer who now works for his father's former Saudi employer, the second is a doctor and the youngest a graduating medical student.

The De Jesus family lives in Looc, Romblon.

The three awardees deserved recognition not just for keeping their families together, according to Owwa.

Investments in livelihood

The agency said they were outstanding because they invested their earnings in livelihood projects that benefited others.

The Atuels have been setting aside 10 percent of their annual income for outreach projects, and provide financial assistance to poor but deserving students, according to Owwa.

Being farmers at heart, they own a 14.8-hectare mango farm, a 3-ha agricultural lot, and a 10-ha rice farm in Bohol.

"Don't forget to count your blessings and share 10 percent of your income with the less-fortunate," Corazon, wearing a pink terno like her five daughters, said in remarks at the awarding rites.

De Jesus employed his neighbors to help him take care of an 11-ha fishpond and a small piggery that he owns in Looc.

Empowering others

He is also an active supporter of a cooperative movement to which he has coaxed many people into joining to empower themselves.

De Jesus planted 100,000 mangrove trees to demarcate his fishpond. He eventually turned the mangrove over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Lagunsay, who was widowed in 2000, has invested in a fruit farm, a 2-ha rice farm and a 5-ha coconut farm, which are run by some of her neighbors and relatives.

She bought 20 cows for her neighbors to raise in exchange for a share of their offspring.

Socio-civic activities

She's also actively involved in socio-civic activities as president of the Indigent Women Association, secretary of the Federation of Purok Residents Association, and a member of Lupong Tagapamayapa in her village.

Owwa Deputy Administrator Noriel Devanadera said the hope is that with the success stories of these three families, "they will be emulated by OFWs all over the country."

RP, Asian nations to act on coral loss

NUSA DUA—ASIAN DELEGATES AT THE United Nations climate change talks have renewed calls to protect the region's huge stock of coral reefs, partly blaming global warming for their alarming decline.

Six Southeast Asian and Pacific nations, including the Philippines, have launched a joint initiative to save the "coral triangle" which holds more than half the world's reefs, considered building blocks of marine life.

"I regret to say the marine resources of our countries and our regions are threatened by climate change, destructive fishing and pollution," said Freddy Numberi, Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs.

The countries aim to establish a network of protected marine zones, to decrease wear and tear on the reefs caused by the fishing industry and to promote ecotourism.

More than 600 species of coral—76 percent of those known—and more than 3,000 species of plants and fish live in the waters encompassing the Philippines, East Timor, part of Indonesia and Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

"The coral triangle is the place for corals in the world, it's the global center, it's the Amazon of the seas," said J.E.N. Veron, former chief scientist with the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Experts, however, say the greatest threat is from rising sea temperatures blamed on global warming.

"We are precipitating a mass extinction of absolutely everything," Veron said. "Corals are the first really big ecosystem to be wiped out by climate change."

Delegates from nearly 190 nations are gathered on Indonesia's Bali island for a Dec. 3-14 summit tasked with laying the groundwork for a new treaty to tackle global warming beyond 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol's first phase expires. *AFP*

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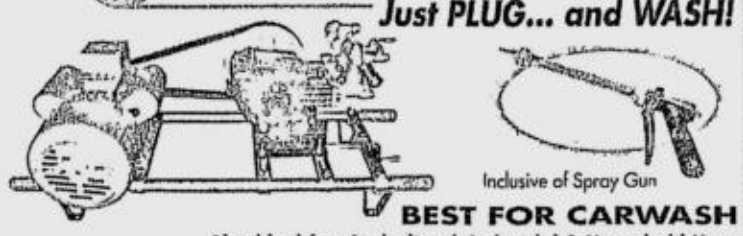

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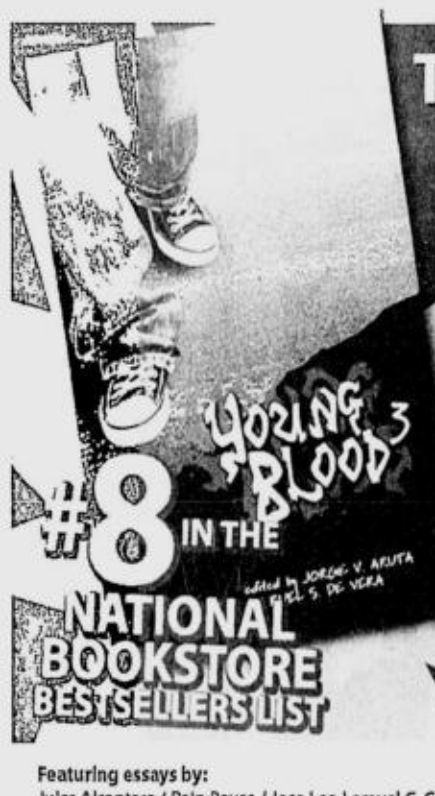

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Coming—writ of data

AFTER COMPELLING THE government and the military to open its camps and jails to the relatives of victims of human rights abuses, the Supreme Court is set to promulgate a new order that would give them the right to ask for official records, court spokesperson Midas Marquez said yesterday.

At a forum organized by the National Union of People's Lawyers in Quezon City, Marquez said the writ of habeas data would be issued next month.

"The draft of the writ of habeas data is expected to be finished at the end of the year for the approval of the committee en banc and it could be promulgated in January," he said.

The committee, Marquez said, would be composed of three or four justices and chaired by Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Marquez described the writ of habeas data as also "a remedy to protect the image, privacy and honor of an individual and to enforce the freedom to information of a person."

He said the writ of habeas data would also compel government and military officials to allow the families of victims of enforced disappearances to destroy or rectify erroneous information by "invoking the right of truth."

He said the writ had been used to resolve the problem of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in Latin American countries under military dictatorships.

The writ of habeas data, he said, would supplement the recently issued writ of amparo which disallows the police and the military the defense of denial which they use when served petitions for habeas corpus.

Marquez in his speech also said the issuance of the writ of amparo had the support of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

He said that on the request of Teodoro, some justices have conducted workshops and seminars for the military generals on the writ of amparo. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

ASIAN REAL ESTATE
Vice President Noli de Castro inaugurates the Asian International Real Estate Expo and Convention being held at the Philippine International Convention Center from Dec. 6 to 10. Assisting him are, from left, Susan Barlin, AIREEC president and chair of Barlin and Associates of California; Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano; Leon Katz, president of Global Investments and Capital Corp., and Judy R. Reinke, commercial counselor of the US Department of Commerce. Delegates from 40 countries are attending the expo.

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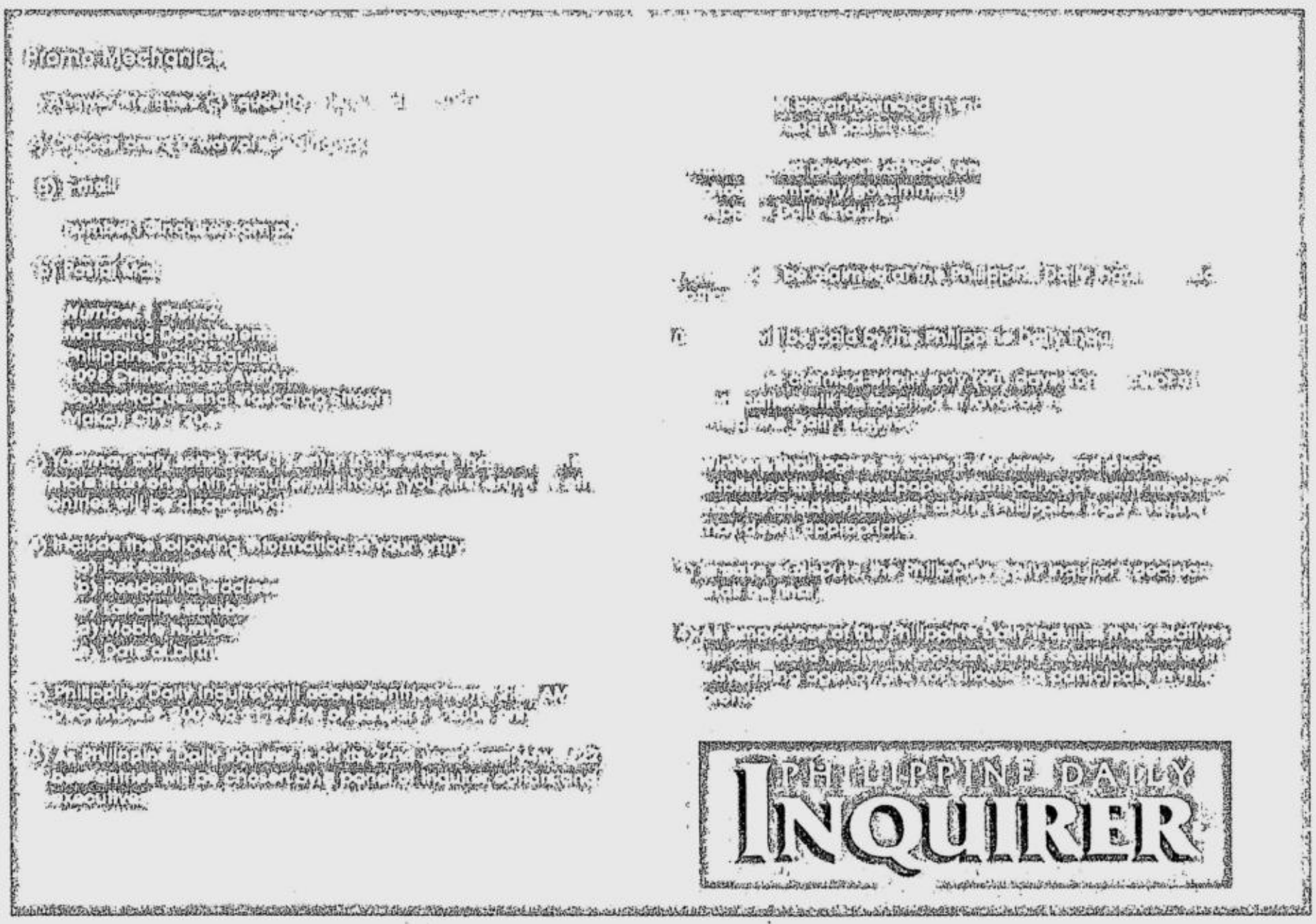

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Top Jesuit tapped for 'moral revolt' vs corruption

By Norman Bordadora

JESUIT ACADEMIC FR. ROMEO INTENgan of the Ateneo de Manila University has been tapped by the administration coalition to head the technical working group that would craft the "moral revolution" being put forth by the leadership of the House of Representatives.

Intengan, who is also the top ideologue of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, said it would be difficult to get the various political parties to agree on the steps to be taken to achieve the moral undertaking initiated by Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"What we agreed on are the principles," Intengan said in a telephone interview.

He said the parties had yet to sit down to agree on how to go about the moral revolution that De Venecia said should stamp out corruption in government.

"It will be difficult. I have no illusions that it will be easy … but it has to be tried," Intengan said.

Intengan and two leaders of the resurgent Nacionalista and Liberal parties confirmed they met on Thursday to adopt the general principles of De Venecia's moral revolution.

The other groups at the meeting held at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel represented the Lakas-CMD of President Macapagal-Arroyo and De Venecia, Ms Arroyo's other party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, the Nationalist People's Coalition and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

"I quote another Jesuit activist who said you should not try to get everybody on. If you produce something good, they will follow," Intengan said.

He said certain groups were better left out of the team drafting the measures.

"There are certain preconditions. The groups should believe in democracy. I don't think that we should integrate into the process groups that do not believe in the universal meaning of human rights," he said.

Should groups like Bayan Muna and the other militant party-list groups be approached, he was asked.

"The Marxist-Leninist Left? I think it will be counterproductive," he said.

De Venecia in an interview on Friday said the political parties had adopted his "moral revolution."

Lakas was represented at the meeting by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Ms Arroyo's brother Diosdado Macapagal Jr., Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong, House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor and Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita.

Kampi was represented by Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez and Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino.

NPC chair Frisco San Juan, Rizal Rep. Jack Duavit and Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco represented their party, while Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara came for the LDP.

For the NP, Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, wife of Senate President Manuel Villar, joined Deputy Majority Leader Crispin Remulla at the meeting.

"We decided to create a working group of two per party for a national declaration, a Manila declaration of the political parties, by January," De Venecia said.

Remulla said the NP believed certain changes in government and society were needed to address the persistent problem of corruption.

He said the NP supported the basic principles.

"We don't really know (how to go about it yet) but change has to take place," Remulla said.

Biazon, on the other hand, said the LP was supportive of a moral renewal but he had yet to apprise the party of what transpired Thursday night.

"Basically, nobody will oppose a moral revolution. The next question will be implementation," Biazon said.

De Venecia has claimed his moral revolution has the support of such as Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo and other religious leaders.

Saguisag goes home 1 month after mishap

By Tarra Quismundo and DJ Yap

FORMER SEN. RENE SAGUISAG WAS DISCHARGED from the hospital yesterday and returned home one month after the road accident that claimed the life of his wife Dulce.

While he still had difficulty standing and speaking, Saguisag left the Makati Medical Center just after 8 a.m.

"Now that he's back home, it still doesn't feel like home because our mom is not there. But I'm happy that he's back with us. The whole family is with him right now," eldest son Rene "Rebo" Saguisag Jr. told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

Saguisag, 68, spent the first part of his confinement in the intensive care unit of the MMC with head injuries and cracked ribs.

A speeding dump truck rammed the van he, his wife, their dance instructor Rhea Obong and driver Felipe Calvario were in at the intersection of Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road) and President Osmeña Avenue (South Superhighway) early in the morning on Nov 8.

Dulce Saguisag, 64, a former social welfare secretary, was killed almost instantly. Saguisag and Calvario suffered serious injuries while Obong was released from the hospital after treatment.

Saguisag and Calvario were confined in the ICU for weeks and the former was not able to attend his wife's funeral on Nov. 15.

"His main concern right now is the family and my mom. We have plans to visit her [at Manila Memorial Park], but I can't say when. His body is still too weak and he can't travel right now. But definitely, we have plans to go to my mom," the younger Saguisag said.

Saguisag, a human rights lawyer whose last high profile client was deposed President Joseph Estrada, has been keeping abreast of current events through television but he can't discuss things just yet, Rebo said.

"We haven't started to talk in detail about his cases, or his work. His attention is all on how the family is, and also my mom. You know that he really wanted to go to her burial," Rebo said.

The younger Saguisag is himself a lawyer who sometimes works with his father.

The former senator is free of tubes, he said, but "still needs assistance in many things." The family has hired a private nurse.

"There are no more tubes, and he can stand up on his own and walk a little, but he's still weak. He can talk but only in whispers," Rebo said.

He said his father had "lost quite a lot of weight" but could work on regaining it as he had no dietary restrictions.

A check with MMC showed Calvario was no longer confined, though it was not clear when he was discharged. The MMC patient relations office said the official medical bulletin on the condition of Saguisag and Calvario will be released on Monday.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 9, 2007
2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

He shall judge the poor with justice.
From the stump of Jesse a shoot will come forth;
from his roots a branch will grow and bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him—
a Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a Spirit of counsel and power,
a Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.
Not by appearances will he judge,
nor by what is said must he decide,
but with justice he will judge the poor
and with righteousness decide for the meek.
Like a rod, his word will strike the oppressor,
and the breath of his lips slay the wicked.
Justice will be the girdle of his waist,
truth the girdle of his loins.
The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
the leopard will rest beside the kid,
the calf and the lion cub will feed together
and a little child will lead them.
Befriending each other, the cow and the bear
will see their young ones lie down together.
Like cattle, the lion will eat hay.
By the cobra's den the infant will play.
The child will put his hand into the viper's lair.
No one will harm or destroy over my holy mountain,
for as water fills the sea
the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

On that day the "Root of Jesse" will be raised as a signal for the nations. The people will come in search of him, thus making his dwelling place glorious.

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Christ saves everyone.

We know that whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, for both perseverance and comfort given us by the Scripture sustain our hope. May God, the source of all perseverance and comfort, give to all of you to live in peace in Christ Jesus, that you may be able to praise in one voice God, Father of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Welcome, then, one another, as Christ welcomed you for the glory of God. Look: Christ put himself at the service of the Jewish world to fulfill the promises made by God to their ancestors; here you see God's faithfulness. The pagans instead give thanks to God for his mercy, as Scripture says: Because of that, I will sing and praise your name among the pagans.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!

In the course of time John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea and began to proclaim his message, "Change your ways, the Kingdom of heaven is now at hand!" It was about him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said, 'A voice is shouting in the desert: prepare a way for the Lord; make his paths straight.'

John had a leather garment around his waist and wore a cloak of camel's hair; his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from all Judea and from the whole Jordan valley, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan as they confessed their sins.

When he saw several Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he baptized, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who told you that you could escape the punishment that is to come? Let it be seen that you are serious in your conversion, and do not think: 'We have Abraham for our father.' I tell you that God can raise children for Abraham from these stones! The axe is already laid to the roots of the trees; any tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire.

"I baptize you in water for a change of heart, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than me; indeed I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. He has the winnowing fan in his hand and he will clear out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn in everlasting fire."

Commentary

We both look towards the coming of the child who will bring justice and peace—the child who will guide all nations to communion and care for the afflicted of each land. There will be truth and all will know that the Spirit of the Lord rests on him and those who follow him. And yet we look backwards for this child has grown to be a man and is with us, having John the Baptist as his herald who cries out to us to be ready and prepare the way for the incarnation—his birth into our lives once again in Word, in Eucharist, in peace upon earth, and justice for the poor. We have been baptized for conversion, in water and the spirit. We have been forgiven, blessed, and made the children of God with his beloved child Jesus. Are we ready? What preparations have we made this new year of grace 2008? Will it belong more completely and truthfully to God? What evidence are we giving that we have reformed and that the Spirit of God now dwells in us, in wisdom and knowledge, fear of the Lord, the work of justice and peacemaking?

All has been written for harmony so that we might dwell in peace and encourage one another with the Scriptures. Are we imitating this Child of God, being servants to one another, especially the servants of the poor and the victims of injustice and war? Wake up!

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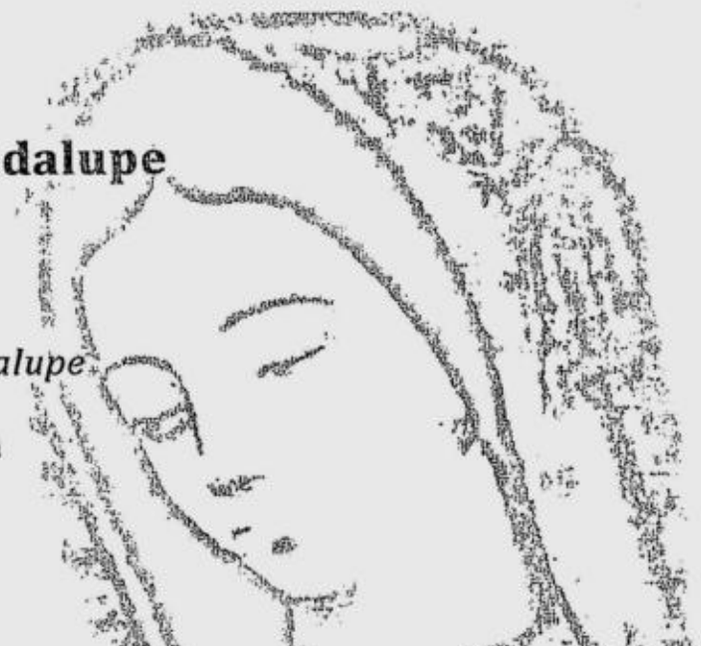
A Celebration

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Solemn High Mass

at the
Oratory of Our Lady of Guadalupe
in Magalang, Pampanga

on December 12, 2007
at 9:00 a.m.



Signum Magnum

"Behold a Great Sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet . . . and being with child . . . And behold a great red dragon . . . . And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven . . . he stood before the woman."

This is the introit for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe wherein it shows that Mary was that Woman. Unlike all other Marian feasts that exemplify specific truths about the Church, the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe is describing an eschatological phenomenon, the Apocalyptic woman.

This feast embodies the fullness of doctrine describing the Catholic Church of which Mary is a type. To take each Marian feast apart from the other is to miss her ecclesiological perspective.

When Pope Paul VI issued "Signum Magnum" and later on "Marialis cultus"; and when Pope John Paul II issued "Redemptoris Mater" and gave his homily on May 13, 2000 in Fatima, both referred to "Signum Magnum" and were both, strangely, connecting it with Our Lady of Fatima. What is the connection?

The third secret of Fatima describes the state of the Church. The Apocalypse describes both the state of the Church and how the Church should be. Here we have a combination of eschatology and ecclesiology as shown in "Lumen Gentium."

The steps toward Christian perfection are: Repentance, Faith, Hope then Charity. The story of Fatima showed the inability of Christians to repent. Without repentance souls cannot have Faith and enter the Church. No Repentance, no Faith, no Catholics. Both Vatican I and II were working on ecclesiology: how does one repent, what is the Church, and how does one enter the Church. These questions were answered by "Lumen Gentium" and Chapter 12 of the Apocalypse. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where she appeared as "Signum Magnum" is important because it teaches the faithful the answers to these urgent questions.

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OPINION

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The people's agenda

EDITORIAL

GOVERNMENTS HAVE POWERS. THE PEOPLE have rights. Those in authority are always unwilling to recognize any limits of their power, unless the people are unyielding in exercising their rights. This means that on the part of the people, every means to assert their rights must be found—and that includes exercising freedom of speech by insisting on exercising freedom of the press. This is at the heart of the Rizalian doctrine which holds that there are no tyrants where there are no slaves.

In the past, society was divided—as in pre-Revolutionary France—into three sectors, or estates: the nobility, the clergy, and the Third Estate or everyone else or what today we'd call the middle class. In the days of France's revolutionary ferment, when came other terms such as the "Left" and "Right," there also arose the idea of another sector, or estate, as expressed by Thomas Carlye: the Fourth Estate, the press. This came about in a comment made by Edmund Burke, who, pointing to the press gallery in the British House of Commons, remarked, "Yonder sits the Fourth Estate, and they are more important than them all."

The result has been what the press—and, today, the media—bears as a badge of distinction and which, from time to time, the public views as an insufferable expression of conceit.

The often very public fights between government and media, as institutions, involves more often than not a tug of war over which view will be adopted by the public at large. Will it be that of media as not only reporter of events, but also as guardian and exponent of the citizenry's freedoms standing up to the power of the state? Or will it be that of media as part of the larger whole which must subordinate itself to the power-wielders in government?

In the 22 years that the INQUIRER has aimed to provide its readers with "balanced news, fearless views," that tug of war has often included the INQUIRER, its editors, reporters, columnists and staff as the bone of contention between governments and the public. From our inception, at the time of the 1986 snap election, ours has been a mission of providing the citizenry with news that goes beyond the processed propaganda of crony papers. We were bludgeoned with a boycott during the Estrada administration and, most recently, we risked official ire with our reporters' insistence on reporting the Peninsula Manila standoff even in the face of police orders to desist.

At stake has been our firm belief, that regardless of the government of the day, no government, however good, should enjoy a monopoly of information; and the surest guarantee no government will ever be totally bad, is to defiantly resist the tendencies of officials to "manage" (read: manipulate and control) news and information. This involves, as well, the basic goal of all those who hold power, which is to have a monopoly on setting the national agenda.

That can never be healthy, not least because it would mean that even a destructive, undemocratic, even insane, agenda would prevail to the detriment of the public. If the public is to have a chance to engage its powers—the ultimate power of the citizenry as the real sovereign in a democratic state—it must have a platform, and that platform can only be provided by the press.

After all, we are answerable not only periodically—as officials are—but every day, to the public. We flourish or we fall, to the extent that you, the reading public, give us your trust, by means of your continuing patronage. This means, too, being responsive to your views as to how we report the news. Whether this means increasing the percentage of success stories, particularly on weekends, or improving our fact-checking response or according readers a grievance mechanism through our Readers' Advocate, we have remained sensitive to your needs, and made your concerns a vital part of our institutional setup.

That we have done so well, and for so long, is testimony to the partnership readers and the INQUIRER have established and maintained. We are embarking on our second generation in this partnership; and we are confident that we will continue to uphold the finest calling of our profession, which is to hold no other agenda than the people's agenda: your agenda, which is for the defense of all our commonly-held and cherished rights, regardless of whether or not it pleases those who happen to have the power.

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'Physician, heal thyself'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

FOR A CHANGE, I SHALL SAY SOMETHING complimentary about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But first let me comment on some particularly ugly blemishes in her sorry record like her current official trip to Europe with her family and favored non-paying members of the 200-strong retinue.

Her very title is under a cloud because of the Garci tapes that she has managed to exile in limbo on the rhetorical ground that we should "move on"; her foreign policy docilely supports George W. Bush as if she were the loyal Dick Cheney; her claimed economic achievements have not lowered the cost of *tilapia* and *tuyo*; human rights have been disdained despite her supposedly libertarian administration; corruption has spread by the millions and even billions of pesos in our indigent Republic, and she has manipulated her toadying accomplices in Congress even as her mostly appointed justices of the Supreme Court have rebuffed her for her deliberate disregard of the Constitution.

Her many shortcomings are increasing by the hour as she continues to prevent the investigation of suspicious transactions like the ZTE contract and the distribution of questionable cash "gifts" in her very own official residence. But to her estimable credit, she has lent honor to our country with her admirable stand in the recent Asean summit conference among the leaders of the participating countries, all of them males except her.

As the lone woman delegate, she was the most outspoken and the least inhibited in espousing the cause of Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Prize winner for peace in 1991 and leader of the opposition to the military junta oppressing the people of Burma. The junta has deprived her for the past 18 years, and still counting, of the freedom to protest the denial from her country of the benefits and protection of a democratic civilian government.

Ms Arroyo pleaded for more decisive action against the authoritarian clique that recently suppressed the peaceful demonstration of the Buddhist priests, more than 2,900 of whom were arrested and maltreated. She asked the generals "to return to the path of democracy and release Aung San Suu Kyi" in a speech that was clearly heard but as clearly not heeded.

The Asean itself did not share Ms Arroyo's strong condemnation of the Burmese people's travail. The rest of its members did not support her suggestion for a more straightforward approach to the Burma problem that they feared might violate international law for interfering in the internal affairs of a foreign country. Her macho colleagues were more cautious than confrontational unlike the plucky Ms Arroyo of the Philippines.

Such intervention is sustainable and in fact demanded by the Asean Charter which advocates the protection of human rights, especially among its member states. Even the UN Charter says that although there should be no intervention "in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state . . . such principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under (its) Chapter VII."

Ms Arroyo gave a superb example of candor and courage to the other conferees in the Asean who paid only lip service to the high purposes of their organization. We in the Philippines should be justly proud of her for emphasizing the devotion of the Filipino people to the ideals of freedom and democracy our forefathers fought for in the bloody revolution of 1896 and our own generation in the peaceful revolution of 1986.

However, much as I applaud Ms Arroyo for her lament over the ordeal of the Burmese people, I regret that she is not showing similar and even greater concern for the plight of her own people. We should be enjoying greater freedom now after Edsa 1 and 2, but we are not. We are again not free. The generals are tyrannizing the nation as before, and GMA, as their commander in chief, appears to be allowing, instructing, or afraid of, them.

That recent report from the UN practically indicts her for their crimes under the doctrine of command responsibility if not, more seriously, as a principal by inducement.

We too are suffering from the repressions of our government, not as visibly as in Burma but no less cruelly and certainly more deceptively. The military brutalized the Buddhist priests in the clear light of the day before the outraged world, but our soldiers are lurking in the shadows against, to take just one desperate example, the *desaparecidos*. Jonas Burgos is still missing, and nameless others like him may now be lying in unmarked graves. Their tragedy should cut us more deeply because they are our own flesh and blood and fellow Filipinos.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's censure of the Burmese military junta, while commendable as an objective oration, does not excuse her toleration of the atrocities being committed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. A more sincere commitment to liberty, and a spirit of compassion as well, should make her obey the pragmatic rule that accusingly commands her: "Physician, heal thyself."

'Sorry?'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A WIFE WHO told her parish priest that her husband converted her to religion. When the priest asked her how, she replied: "I didn't believe in Hell until I married him."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 3, 1-12) John the Baptist preaches: "Repent, for the kingdom is at hand!" We are all reminded on this Second Sunday of Advent to take the road of conversion and repentance. Is your heart open for the Lord's coming? Have you, in humility acknowledged your sins?

* * *

Repentance is not enough. We can say "sorry" and be forgiven again and again, but "sorry" without sincerity and without humility is empty. Likewise, "sorry" without resolve, without reparation, and without true contrition is mere lip service. If truly sorry, then, the Gospel today says: "Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance."

* * *

I looked up the meaning of "impunity," and Webster defines it as "exemption from punishment." A culture of impunity seems to be prevalent in our country today where the evildoers go unpunished. It is really very frustrating to see big evildoers go free, and small-time offenders get the full weight of the law. The bottom line? Money. Sad, very sad, that money has become a big factor—in fact, the biggest factor in the making or unmaking of our society. Values? Where have all our values gone? We need modern-day John the Baptists again, crying out in the desert, preaching conversion and repentance.

* * *

Let us not lose heart. God does not sleep. God knows everything. Advent reminds us that God's Kingdom, and the values of God's Kingdom will prevail, in the end. "His winnowing fan is in His hand." Let us continue to hold on to the Advent promise that the Lord's justice, goodness and mercy will come soon. Yes, let us hold on to God and trust Him even when everyone around us is just holding on to, and trusting in, their money.

* * *

An early "Christmas Moment" occurred to me last Dec. 6 at an evening Mass at North Susana, Quezon City. Right after the Gospel, the lights went out in the church. Instead of panicking, instead of "fixing" the situation, I told the congregation to just relax and reflect in the darkness, and with the candle glow. Perhaps, I said, the Lord wanted us all to experience what Advent, what Christmas was all about as we accepted our helplessness in the darkness, yet filled with joyful hope and expectation, that the lights would be back soon. For about three minutes, we just sat in silence, and experienced God's peace and embrace. That night, I didn't have to say anything. The Lord spoke. There was nothing more to say. Yes, some of the best learnings happen when we say little, or say nothing at all.

* * *

I was recently listening to a housewife, and she was telling me of her jitters about her holiday preparations and the rush she has to go through in connection with her Christmas decorations, gifts, parties, the menu on their "*noche buena*", etc. And I was saying to myself, "Wow! Is this Christmas? All the trimmings, and feeling cozy and nice, with no thought about preparations inside, and no awareness of the abject poverty around us?" Christmas happens in the heart, and has to be radiated to the people around us with concrete love, especially to the "little ones."

* * *

We feel deeply our "hellos" and "goodbyes," especially during Christmas. We say goodbye, as a family, to Tiong Paling Oblanca who has gone back to our Creator, and we joyfully welcome Mateo to this world. God is the God of our hellos and goodbyes. Perhaps that is what Christmas is all about: meaning and hope, in whatever we go through in life. The Incarnation has made life, and everything in it, a real celebration, a purposeful mission and vocation. Thank you Lord for giving purpose and meaning to our lives. Amen!

* * *

Inviting you to a Healing Mass at the Sta. Lucia Mall, Cainta, Rizal on Dec. 14, 6 p.m. organized by Becca and Enteng Santos and family. A 14-year-old blind girl and healer will join us in the Mass. Yes, let us all pray not only for physical healing but also for spiritual healing—of our character, our relationships, of our country and the world, especially this Christmas.

* * *

Inviting you to the half-day gathering of the "Flames of Fire for Jesus" on Dec. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum, organized by Cielo Macapagal-Salgado. Mass is at 8 a.m. Let us gather in gratitude, as we welcome the Lord in our hearts and in our nation this Christmas season.

* * *

Do you have extra money, shoes, clothes and whatever stuff? Someone said that if you don't use something within a year, it does not belong to you. Share, and care enough to give your very best, especially this Christmas.

* * *

Bantay Matanda invites you to a lay forum on Stress Management and Art Therapy on Dec. 15 at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries please call 3732262.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, help me to say "sorry" not just to get away, but to give you glory. Amen.

Danding wins San Miguel but loses Cocobank

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

LAST NOV. 28, THE SANDIGANBAYAN JUNKED the claim of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) over 20 percent of San Miguel Corporation (SMC) and upheld the ownership thereof of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. On Nov. 29, the Sandiganbayan affirmed the government's ownership of 72.2 percent of the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB). Justice Diosdado M. Peralta penned both rulings.

Battle for UCPB. In 1975, 72.2 percent of the stocks of the First United Bank (FUB) were sold, through Danding, to the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). Though coconut levy funds were used in the purchase, 64.98 percent of the shares were placed in the name of the so-called Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) companies and "one million coconut farmers," while the balance of 7.22 percent were registered in the name of Danding. FUB was later renamed UCPB.

Why in Danding's name? Per his agreement with the PCA dated May 25, 1975, Danding supposedly got the 7.22 percent as "compensation for his personal and exclusive option" to buy the FUB shares and "for performing management services." In 1986, the PCGG sequestered these 72.2 percent shares for being allegedly ill gotten.

"Republic vs Cocofed" (Dec. 14, 2001)—a decision I penned for the Supreme Court—ruled that, pending the final determination of who were their legal owners, these sequestered shares should be voted by the PCGG (the right to vote, not ownership, was the sole issue here). The Court unequivocally decreed for the first time that "coconut levy funds are prima facie public funds." Hence, the shares purchased with them were also prima facie government-owned. As a result, control of the bank passed from Danding to the government.

Subsequently, the Sandiganbayan—using the above Supreme Court decision—held in a partial judgment that the UCPB shares in the name of the CIIF belonged to the government. Last Nov. 29, it completed its partial judgment by ruling that the Danding shares were also government-owned.

Battle for SMC. In 1986, the PCGG sequestered the shares registered in the name of the CIIF companies constituting 27 percent of SMC and, separately, those in Danding's name amounting to 20 percent. In 1998, the Supreme Court held that Danding should be allowed to vote his 20 percent, because of the PCGG's inability to justify its claim to vote them. Later on, Danding was elected SMC chair.

Subsequently, the Sandiganbayan held that the 27 percent belonged to the government, because it was purchased with levy funds. However, in its recent ruling on Nov. 28, the Sandiganbayan said that the PCGG was not able to prove that the 20 percent was purchased with levy funds; hence, it should remain in Danding's name.

Danding's counsel, Estelito P. Mendoza, has repeatedly declared that his client has no claim over the CIIF-held shares, which are in turn represented by the Accra Law Office. Mendoza adds that Danding's SMC stocks were purchased with borrowed funds that have already been paid by his principal. Thus, they belong to him. Incidentally, because of the issuance of new shares, the government's 27 percent had been reduced to 24 and Danding's 20 to 17.

In sum, all the UCPB and SMC shares purchased with coco levy funds were ruled to be government-owned "in trust for the coconut farmers." Danding's SMC shares were adjudged to the tycoon since they were not proven to have been bought with levy funds. At present, Danding controls SMC, because the PCGG (which votes the 24 percent) and the other substantial SMC shareholders, like Kirin Beer of Japan, have sided with him in running the food and beverage giant.

Piercing issues. Newsbreak, the digital magazine, is normally accessible through its website. However, its very recent printed "special edition," with Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno on its cover, raises some piercing issues on the judiciary and the Judicial and Bar Council that I think our activist Supreme Court should not let pass unanswered.

Congratulations to new Supreme Court Justice Teresita J. Leonardo de Castro. Gutsy and brainy, she has chalked up an immaculate and impressive track record.

Unconstitutional. Instead of being discussed *ad nauseam*, the detention of journalists and the imposition of a curfew after the Peninsula Manila siege should be elevated *pronto* to the Supreme Court. Given its libertarian streak, its decision is fairly predictable.

Christmas celebrations. "Ádeste Fideles" is a most delightful Christmas musicale. It blended the classical with the popular, producing a unique brew of soothing musicality. Kudos to the Management Association of the Philippines presided over by Ambassador Albert F. del Rosario, Credit Suisse headed by Simon Paterno, the other sponsors (including the INQUIRER) and the Organizing Committee chaired by the indefatigable Eddie H. Yap.

"Fiddler on the Roof" is another way to enjoy the Yuletide. Presented by Repertory Philippines, the play is comparable to the best I have seen in New York and London. My wife Leni bought the most expensive seats at P1,000 ($25), still a bargain because the show is comparable in acting, singing and even production to the Broadway version which sold for 10 times more at $250.

For dance enthusiasts, I say the Annual Ball of the Consular Corps held the other evening was the most elegant hereabouts; the closest one can get to a Viennese ball. *Salamat po*, US Consul General Richard D. Haynes for inviting Leni and me to sit with you at your Dean's Table.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Markets and gifts

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HABITUES OF WHAT I CALL THE "SOSY MARket," or the Salcedo Community Market, as it's officially known, might be surprised to find next Saturday, Dec. 15 such items as Ilocos garlic, shallots, cornick, *linga* (sesame seeds), *miki* and *tupig* (a rice cake with strips of fresh coconut), as well as sugarcane wine (*basi*) and sugarcane vinegar (*sukang Iloko*) being sold alongside the gourmet dishes, handicrafts, organic veggies and blooms that the market is famous for.

The Ilocano goodies are just part of the Ilocos Food and Crafts Fair that showcases the finest fresh produce, specialty food items and indigenous crafts from Ilocos region.

Entitled "Panaggapas: The Ilocano Harvest," the day-long event is organized by the Ilocos Norte Tourism Office in cooperation with the Museo Ilocos Norte and the Gameng Foundation.

The festival is the first time the Salcedo Community Market—Manila's most popular weekend market—will host a fair of regional Filipino specialty food items and traditional crafts.

Aside from the aforementioned food products, other items on sale will include Ilocano delicacies such as *bagnet*, *empanada* and *longganiza*, as well as woven textiles and cotton fabrics and dried tobacco leaves—a traditional household insect-repellant and garden pesticide.

Salcedo's "Panaggapas" Festival will also include a cooking demonstration of traditional Ilocos food by authentic cooks brought in especially for the event, as well as representatives from the province's hotels and resorts.

Also on sale at the event are traditional Abel Iloko—or woven cotton fabrics—sewn into blankets, runners, napkins and kitchen towels. Included among the regional crafts are handcrafted baskets and sleeping mats that are renowned for their tight, intricate weaves.

* * *

NEWLY ELECTED Gov. Michael M. Keon describes the special event as "a showcase of Ilocano talent, creativity and industry," while Rep. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. invites everyone "who appreciates good, honest food, and hand-made quality products" to the fair.

"Panaggapas"—or "harvest season" in the local language—is the traditional highlight of the year's efforts, when the hardworking farmers give thanks for the blessings they have received, and rest after another year of work.

"The Ilocos harvest festival not only showcases the produce of one of the country's oldest regions, but also highlights the Salcedo Market's commitment to promote the Philippines as a whole," said Constancia Q. Lichauco, chairperson of the Women of Bel-Air Foundation Inc.

The Women of Bel-Air Foundation Inc. will take over the operations of the market beginning January 2008 and has promised to upgrade services at Manila's most popular market for the past three and a half years.

* * *

HERE'S a meaningful and immensely practical gift for the people you care about—the gift of good health. FriendlyCare Foundation, which has a network of family health clinics around Metro Manila and in Cebu and Davao, is offering the "FriendlyCare Health Certificate" that is "unique, inexpensive and gives good value." The cards offer different health packages and are ideal as gifts for one's family, friends and even employees.

Corporate buyers can even have their name and logo printed on the certificates for a minimum order of 25 certificates. Here are the various cards and the services that come with them:

For P350 each, cards offer Package 1—the "annual physical check-up" that includes a comprehensive physical exam and basic tests; Package 2—the "Healthy Kidney Package" that offers urinalysis and other tests and a consultation with a family medicine or internal medicine specialist (another "kidney" package is available for P300); and Package 3—"Healthy Teeth and Gum Package" that offers dental prophylaxis with fluoride, available at selected clinics.

The "Healthy Heart Package," available for P450, offers a lipid profile and a consultation with a specialist, while two "Diabetic Packages," for P550 and P580 offers the basic tests for blood sugar and a consultation. For P550, one can avail of the "Healthy Skin Package" which includes a diamond peel and a consultation with a dermatologist. The "Woman's Care Package" offers a pap smear and a consultation with an OB-Gynecologist for P300, but only at the Davao Clinic.

For more information, contact Manuel Hernandez, FriendlyCare national sales manager, at Tel. No. 722-2968 to 88, local 1003, or at any Friendly Care Clinic on Shaw Boulevard, Cubao, Lagro, Masinag, Davao and Cebu.

* * *

HERE'S something else you can buy for yourself or for your loved ones that's not only chic and practical (I saw a photo of the bag, and I wouldn't mind having it in my collection) but also politically correct while benefiting a good cause.

It's the Aranaz "I'm a natural shopper bag," that was made, says designer Amina Aranaz-Alunan, "in our effort to contribute to the worldwide campaign towards the elimination of plastic bag usage." While the makers recommend that one use the bag for "shopping at the mall, markets, groceries, bazaars, etc.," I wouldn't mind using it even for stepping out on the town. Then again, this may be just un-chic me talking!

Aranaz joins other concerns, including Shopwise Supermarkets, that have been promoting the use of re-usable, non-plastic bags to reduce the demand for plastics as well as reduce the amount of non-biodegradable waste materials. It also doesn't hurt that aside from looking like fashionable, the bags also give you "politically correct" mileage.

The "natural shopper bag" is available at all Aranaz outlets for P750, with P200 from each bag sold given to Greenpeace. So get a bag now and help delay or avert global warming!

The Nobel Cult

WORLD VIEW

Robert Marc Friedman

OSLO—THE DANCE AROUND THE GOLDEN Nobel medallion began over a 100 years ago, and is still going strong. As icon, myth and ritual, the Nobel Prize is well secured. But what do we actually know about the Nobel Prize?

Shrouded in secrecy and legend, the Nobel Prize first became an object for serious scholarly study after 1976, when the Nobel Foundation opened its archives. Subsequent research by historians of science leaves little doubt: the Nobel medallion is etched with human frailties.

Although many observers accept a degree of subjectivity in the literature and peace prizes, the science prizes have long been assumed to be an objective measure of excellence. But, from the start, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the physics and chemistry prizes, and the Caroline Institute, which awards those for medicine/physiology, have based their decisions on the recommendations of their respective committees. And the committee members' own understanding of science has been critical in determining outcomes.

From the beginning, the inner world of those entrusted to make recommendations was marked by personal and principled discord over how to interpret Alfred Nobel's cryptic will and to whom prizes should be awarded. While committee members tried to be dispassionate, their own judgment, predilections and interests necessarily entered into their work, and some championed their own agendas, whether openly or cunningly.

Winning a Nobel has never been an automatic process, a reward that comes for having attained a magical level of achievement. Designated nominators rarely provided committees with a clear consensus, and the committees often ignored the rare mandates when a single strongly nominated candidate did appear, such as Albert Einstein for his work on relativity theory. Academy physicists had no intention of recognizing this theoretical achievement "even if the whole world demands it." The prize is a Swedish prerogative.

Moreover, a simple change in the composition of the committee could decide a candidate's fate. Not until committee strongman C. W. Oseen died in 1944 could the theoretical physicist Wolfgang Pauli—one of the giants of quantum mechanics—receive a prize. Conversely, the Academy of Sciences sometimes rebelled against its committees. Harboring a grudge, one chemist rallied the Academy to block the committee's recommendation for the Russian Dmitry Mendeleyev, who created the periodic table.

Even when all involved tried to rise above pettiness and partiality, selecting winners was always difficult—and remains so. Committee members occasionally confessed privately that often several candidates could be found who equally deserved a prize. Unambiguous, impartial criteria for selecting a winner were not at hand—and never will be.

The confused situation faced by the Caroline Institute in 1950 reminds us that all prize committees face difficult choices: after four indecisive rounds of preliminary voting, three primary alternatives emerged, but the outcome was still uncertain. While urging a colleague to come to the meeting, one committee member noted that if somebody were to catch cold, a completely different decision might be reached.

The image of science advancing through the efforts of individual genius is, of course, appealing. Yet, to a greater extent than the prizes allow, research progresses through the work of many.

Brilliant minds do matter, but it is often inappropriate and unjust to limit recognition to so few, when so many extremely talented scientists may have contributed to a given breakthrough. The Nobel bylaws do not allow splitting a prize into more than three parts, thereby excluding discoveries that entailed work by more than three researchers, or omitting key persons who equally deserved to share in the honor.

Moreover, it has become clear that many important branches of science are not addressed by Alfred Nobel's testament (limited to physics, chemistry, physiology/medicine). Some of the past century's greatest intellectual triumphs, such as those related to the expanding universe and continental drift, have not been celebrated. Environmental sciences—surely of fundamental importance—also come up empty. There is nothing wrong with wanting heroes in science, but we should understand the criteria used to select those whom we are asked to revere.

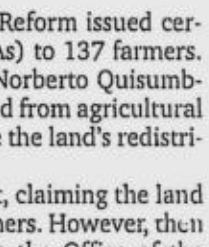
Why do people venerate the Nobel Prize? There is no easy answer. The cult of the Prize began even before the first winners were announced. Media fascination whipped up speculation and interest. The creed of the Prize did not depend so much on the merit of the winners, as much as the understanding that the Prize was a powerful means to gain prestige, publicity and advantage.

Even scientists who frowned upon the Swedish committees' limitations and sometimes odd choices nevertheless still nominated and lobbied for candidates, knowing that if successful, a winner can draw attention and money to a research specialty, institution, or national scientific community.

Is science or society well served by a fixation on prizes and on nurturing a culture of extreme competition? Perhaps once the mystery of the Nobel Prize is reduced, we might reflect on what is truly significant in science. The soul and heritage of science going back several centuries is far richer than the quest for prizes. ***Project Syndicate***

Robert Marc Friedman, professor of the history of science at the University of Oslo, is the author of "The Politics of Excellence: Behind the Nobel Prize in Science."

Calloused



REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—IT IS A DAY WHEN THE YELLOW heat licks through rubber slippers and thin cotton shirts, a day when car windows are rolled down and car accidents happen on street corners where blue-uniformed policemen are stationed. To my left, a blond bombshell in a black lace bra smirks from a mammoth Guess billboard. High on the balcony of a dingy three-story apartment, three bare-chested boys watch the quiet march.

The shaved heads of the Sumilao farmers are covered with old towels. I do not know what to call this—a procession, a protest, a rally? None of the words fits the parade of dark-skinned farmers who plod with grim persistence down Manila's cracked concrete highways. Two of the farmers carry long bamboo poles on their shoulders, hung with pairs of battered rubber slippers. They walk in file, long white banner billowing, while trucks trundle beside them.

There is a man who walks beside me, his small knapsack, a pink plastic bag, secured by graying string. His name is Napoleon Merida Sr., 59 years old, and he says he is on his fourth pair of slippers. Merida is one of the 55 farmers who walked from Barangay San Vicente in Sumilao to Malacañang. They began with more, but the rest have fallen back, unable to withstand the killing pace and unpredictable weather. Every day, at least two of them faint, and are carried by other farmers on a length of cloth hung between two poles.

Samar, says Merida, was the worst part of the trek—the rain, the boggy ground, the wetness. The 1,700-kilometer march is part of their long struggle for their ancestral land. The marching farmers are Higaonon natives, early settlers in the 144-hectare land they consider holy ground.

In 1997, the Department of Agrarian Reform issued certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) to 137 farmers. The grant was contested by landowner Norberto Quisumbing's application for conversion of the land from agricultural to agro-industrial, in an attempt to evade the land's redistribution.

The DAR denied Quisumbing's request, claiming the land by rights belonged to the indigenous farmers. However, then Bukidnon's Gov. Carlos Fortich wrote to the Office of the President—at that time, Fidel Ramos—on behalf of Quisumbing. The letter became the basis for Executive Secretary Ruben Torres to release an order giving the land to Quisumbing. In 1997, the farmers' 28-day hunger strike in front of the DAR central office raised public awareness and compelled Ramos to issue what he called a "win-win" solution, granting 100 hectares to the farmers and 44 to Quisumbing.

In 1999, the Supreme Court overturned Ramos' order and upheld Torres' order on a technicality. Justices Reynato Puno and Jose Melo argued that procedural rules must give way to a consideration of the substance of the issue, but the conversion went through.

It has been eight years since the Supreme Court gave the land back to the Quisumbings, long past the five-year deadline that permits the developer to fulfill its promises. Quisumbing never filed for development permits—his intentions do not appear to be as benevolent as he claimed, when he said his agro-industrial area was his "way of helping insure food, shelter and lifetime security (for) the greater majority of Sumilao's 22,000 people." In 2002, he sold the land to San Miguel Foods Inc.

San Miguel filed for development permits in 2004, two years after they acquired the land. The clock for the five-year deadline did not begin in 1999, they say, it only began ticking when they applied and were issued permits in 2004.

Their development plan is a far cry from the original grandiose Quisumbing proposal that proposed research institutes, colleges, a library, a cultural center, a sports complex, processing plants, forest development, housing projects and various support facilities. San Miguel's project is composed of piggeries, poultry farms and processing plants. As to whether there will be farming—"By farming do you mean planting?"—they say no, there will be no farming. They claim, however, that it is "a corporate social responsibility model" that is "anchored on creating shared value both for the company and the community." They claim the piggery had direct permission from the DAR central office.

What I do not understand is this—why prime agricultural land, situated beside a natural irrigation canal is judged by the DAR as land suitable for pigs, and inappropriate for the people who have tilled it for generations.

Now the Sumilao farmers are in Manila, appealing for a cease-and-desist order to stop the ongoing construction of a hog farm in their property. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has remanded the case to the DAR, ordering the department to come to a decision even before the farmers arrive in Manila. Last Thursday, instead of a decision, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman asked for position papers from both sides, in spite of the bulk of documentation his department has been provided with.

Twenty-one-old Bajek-jek Merida stops in front of the row of policemen who guard the road leading to Malacañang. "We have walked 1,700 kilometers," she says in Filipino, "and we're not allowed to even see the gates of the Palace." There will be 4,999 pigs living in Sumilao, she rages. "Are pigs more important than the farmers of Sumilao?"

Even the policemen are sympathetic. I hear murmurs of disbelief as to the distance the farmers have walked, and the hope that it was all worth it. In Caritas Manila, on orders from Secretary Ermita, policemen carry in boxes of food, distributing Jollibee cheeseburgers and fries to the farmers. And then there is a cry, and in a corner of the garden is Bajek-jek, sitting with two other girls on the broken grass.

"We did not come here to beg for food." Her voice is hoarse. "Don't you see us? We are so tired, so tired that we can barely walk. But we have walked. And we were stopped before we reached Malacañang. Do you want to see us die? We do not want food. We want our land."

Around her, farmers bow their heads—in exhaustion, I think. And then I see how towels flop over faces, how a tattooed young farmer hides his eyes, how an older woman shivers in the heat, and I realize that all over the garden, men and women with calloused feet are crying quietly, while policemen stand back, and a young woman rages that pigs cannot farm.

* * *

For comments e-mail rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Asia responds to climate change

GLOBAL WARMING IS UPON US. THERE IS NO AVOIDING OR DENYING IT. Last month, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that only urgent global action could slow down climate change.

Enough carbon dioxide has already built up that it imperils islands, coastlines and a fifth to two-thirds of the world's species, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In Africa, 75 million to 250 million people will suffer water shortages by 2020; in Europe, there will be extensive species loss; and in North America, there will be longer and hotter heat waves. In Asia, large cities will be at great risk of river and coastal flooding, not to mention the poor being the most affected due to food and water shortages.

At a recent international conference on climate change organized by the The Nation and Asia News Network (ANN) in Bangkok, businessmen, policymakers and environment experts discussed Asia's emerging response to the problem.

What can we do to keep our ship—planet Earth—from sinking and taking all of us down with it? Whether as individuals, as companies or as countries, everyone needs to take action. It has become a matter of sinking or swimming.

ANN is an alliance of 16 newspapers, including the Philippine Daily Inquirer, published in 14 Asian cities.

Strong political will needed

By Syed Nazakat

ASIA, HOME TO 60 PERcent of the world's population, will bear the brunt of global warming as more extreme climatic changes will take place in the region.

Dr. Yukihiro Nojiri, manager of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Office in Japan, said global warming would make Southeast Asia more vulnerable to food shortages, natural resource depletion, and decline in human health standards and land degradation in this century.

"We are going to have more trouble in the days ahead," Nojiri said.

The United Nations, which is holding a world summit on global warming on Dec. 3-14 in Bali, has also stressed that Asia must take serious steps to face the challenge of global warming—with clear targets and timetables for preventing further environmental damage.

Bangkok conference

"Asia is responsible for 34 percent of global warming gas emissions and its share is expected to rise in the coming years. While Asia's share of responsibility is increasing, Asia is expected to suffer most from the impact of climate change," said Dr. Han SeungSoo, special envoy of the UN secretary general on climate change at "Asia's Emerging Response to Climate Change" conference in Bangkok on Nov 23.

Rich countries may be largely to blame for adding climate change to Asia's litany of problems, but the continent is also responsible for the drastic climate change in its own region.

China's booming economy has propelled it past the United States as the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas that is primarily responsible for global warming.

India's annual emissions are relatively modest per capita—at about 1.1 tons of carbon per Indian, one-quarter of the global average. But with its vast population, India is already the fifth-biggest carbon emitter.

Right to develop

Like China, India also argues that it has a right to develop its economy, and so alleviate the woes of its impoverished people, free of carbon-cutting constraints.

"Of course, India has less moral responsibility to cut carbon emissions than the rich, temperate countries of the West. But, arguably, it has more reason to do so," Dr. Brahma Chellaney told Asia News Network on the sidelines of the conference.

Chellaney is a professor at the Center for Policy Research in New Delhi and is also the author of "On the Frontline of Climate Change," which examines how climate change will affect national and international security.

Third biggest emitter

The problem is getting worse in Southeast Asia.

Malaysia's carbon emissions have increased by 221 percent since 1990, the highest growth rate among the world's top polluters, according to the United Nations Development Report. Indonesia, a country of 245 million, is the third biggest carbon emitter in the world today after the United States and China.

But the Indonesian government says it needs to focus on economic growth to raise its people out of poverty. That likely means that trees will be cut, cars will be clogging roads and carbon emissions will go up.

"The overall responses in Asia to climate change, both in terms of reducing rates of emission growth and adapting to climate change, are likely to exacerbate or distract from addressing existing social injustices," said Louis Lebel, director of the Unit for Social and Environmental Research at Chiang Mai University in Thailand.

The impact of climate change, said Lebel, would be distributed very unequally as a result of entrenched unfairness in how societies in Asia are developing.

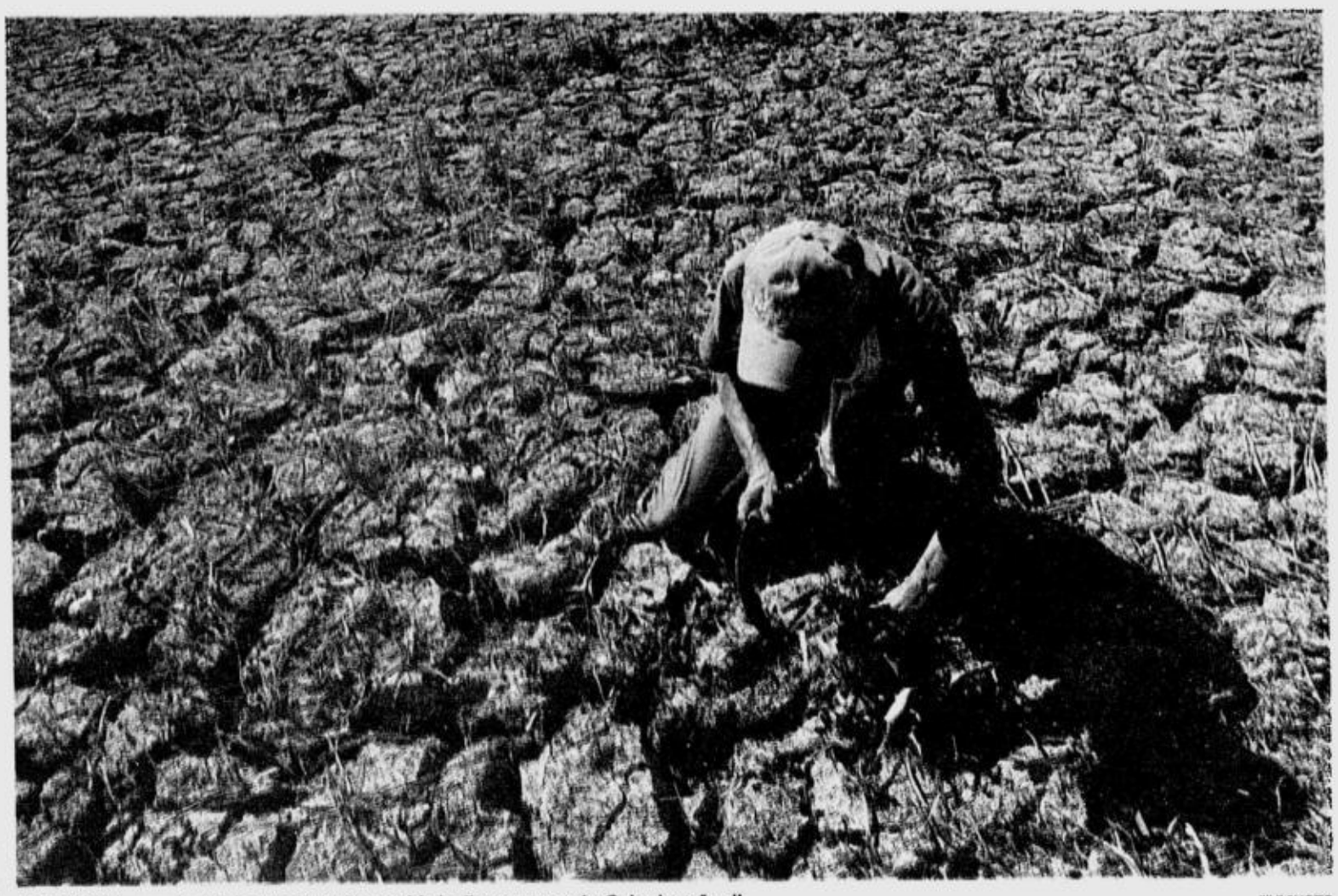
"By realities of everyday life in current cultures: if water becomes harder to get, if the drinking wells nearby go dry because of overuse, it is women that will have to walk further," Lebel said.

Geopolitics

While the technological path to climate change action is clear, the politics is getting more complicated. The developing nations have pointed out that they're not responsible for the vast majority of carbon dioxide hanging around in the atmosphere, which was put there by Western countries during their own development over the past 150 years.

They argue that their own per-capita-emission rates are still far lower than those of the West, and that climate change isn't their responsibility.

"Climate change is not a matter of science," says Chellaney. "It is a matter of geopolitics. So we need a strong political will to deal with challenge of climate change." *ANN*



A FARMER examined his dried-up rice paddy in Carcar town in Cebu last April. FILE PHOTO

More challenging than changing a light bulb

By Yasmin Lee Arpon

BANGKOK—IT WAS NEARING New Year and five of my light bulbs at home were busted. I grew up in a household where everything has to be in order by the time the New Year rolls in. House repairs have to be finished by Dec. 31.

All the lights at home must be working. Otherwise, the coming year would be beset with darkness, er, problems.

So with that in mind, I went to the home department of the nearest mall to buy new bulbs. The sales attendant promptly led me to a row of light bulbs. I stood there dazed. Even buying a bulb has now become complicated with so many choices.

"This is good," the guy pointed to a row of compact fluorescent lights. In fact, all of them were fluorescent. Gone were the incandescent lights that I had back home.

Consumes less

"It saves power consumption and it lasts longer than the old bulbs," he said.

Of course, it was more expensive but as environmentalists would tell you, the cost is not the point. Energy saving is.

So in the future, a sustainable lifestyle means using compact fluorescent bulbs, eschewing plastic bags when we do our groceries and driving electric cars.

Japan, for one, has introduced electric cars into its domestic market, while Thailand has been actively campaigning for a shift from incandescent to fluorescent bulbs, aiming to achieve a total shift within four years.

Dr. Piyasvati Amranand, Thailand's energy chief, said this would bring down current energy consumption by at least 10 percent.

Piyasvati enumerated four courses of action to address global warming: 1) energy efficiency and conservation; 2) promotion of renewable energy; 3) going nuclear; and 4) carbon capture and storage (CCS).

"We have to implement the first three measures as quickly and as severely as we can," Piyasvati said. But he quickly added that doing these "is not sufficient to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so the pressure is on CCS, which is still an unproven technology."

Carbon capture

CCS mitigates global warming by capturing carbon dioxide (CO_2) from large sources like fossil-fuel power plants and subsequently storing it instead of releasing it into the atmosphere. While technology for the capture of CO_2 is already commercially available, its long-term storage is still untried.

Piyasvati also advocated cutting down on the use of oil "drastically" by keeping oil prices high. He called on governments, particularly in Asia, to drop price subsidies. He, however, admitted that this would go against governments that do not want to earn the ire of the larger population.

To address this, he said there should be a shift in the mode of transportation from energy guzzlers to electric cars or mass transportation.

At the same time, Piyasvati emphasized that while countries have to do their share in saving the environment, they also have to be realistic and focus on renewable sources of energy that complement their natural resources.

Gasohol

"Thailand does not have enough resources to turn to biodiesel," he noted. But he added that the government was promoting the use of gasohol and sales have been going up every week since it was introduced in the market. Gasohol is a gasoline extender made from a mixture of gasoline (90 percent) and ethanol (10 percent).

Ethanol is often obtained by fermenting agricultural crops or crop wastes. Gasohol may also consist of gasoline (97 percent) and methanol or wood alcohol (3 percent).

Gasohol has higher octane properties than gasoline and burns more slowly, coolly and completely, resulting in reduced emissions of some pollutants.

On the use of nuclear energy, Piyasvati acknowledged that not everyone wanted to go nuclear. "It entails a lot of hard work. There is opposition from a lot of sectors and life would be a lot easier if we get gas from the Middle East, Australia and Indonesia. We don't have to set up any new regulator," he said.

But he cited the experience of France whose energy is 70 percent derived from nuclear sources. "France has the lowest per capita emission among industrialized countries," he noted.

He also said that while energy consumption in developing countries must be reduced, the focus should be on highly developed countries like the United States where energy consumption is 20 tons per person per year.

"Developing countries have their right to higher living standards," he said. "What we should do is promote a change in everyone's way of life."

China and India

Much pressure has been applied on India and China—the region's fastest-growing economies—to reduce their emissions.

The two countries rely on coal for power generation because it is the most affordable.

Lu Xuedong, deputy director general of China's Science and Technology Ministry's global environment affairs office, said the country had undertaken actions to mitigate the impact of climate change.

For one, China is optimizing energy mix by developing low-carbon and renewable energy, according to Lu. In 2005, the use of renewable energy in China was equal to 166 million tce (tons of coal equivalent), 7.5 percent of China's energy mix that year. This was equivalent to a reduction of 380 million tons of CO_2 emissions.

Lu added that least-efficient power generation units of about 50 GW would be closed down by 2010 while least efficient steel and iron plants of about 100 MT production capacity would be closed down also by 2010.

"Such actions will be extremely challenging and very painful," Lu said.

Definitely more challenging and painful than changing a bulb light. *ANN*

Cities under siege

By Jofelle P. Tesorio

EVERY DECEMBER, CLEANers in Thailand would collect about a million "krathongs," traditional floating lanterns Thais send off to rivers and canals to pay respect to the goddess of water.

This year, however, the Metropolitan Bangkok Authority (MBA) is urging the people to share a "krathong"—one family or group, one "krathong."

The floating of lanterns during the Loy Krathong Festival has taken a toll on the environment, according to Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin.

This is one of the small efforts cities like Bangkok have been doing to help the environment cope.

Even if the city produces only 0.6 percent of the world's total gas emission, the governor admitted liability and committed to reduce the number of cars on the road, improve the mass transport system, encourage the use of recyclable bags, tap alternative source of energy, conserve energy, provide green spaces and parks, and reduce waste.

It would also be good if the government would give incentives to shopping malls, grocery shops and convenient stores that ask their clients whether they like their products wrapped in plastic or not. Those who refuse plastic bags should be given rewards like a discount.

In Beijing, toxic smog hangs over China's capital. As the economy booms, many people trade in their good old bicycles for energy-guzzling and smoke-belching cars.

The Chinese government has become aware of the trade-off the economic miracle has brought so it is making efforts to reduce gas emissions, at least in Beijing.

For starters, the Beijing transport authority has lowered the train fare to 2 yuan (27 US cents) and bus fare to 40 cents (13 US cents) to encourage the use of public transport.

At the 17th session of the National Congress of the Communist Party of China, a policy recommendation on climate change was made for the first time.

China plans to close down less-efficient power generation units of about 50 gigawatts and low-efficient steel and iron plants of about 100 metric-ton production capacity by 2010.

Aside from polluted air, Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila, Dhaka and other Asian cities experience recurring floods during the rainy season.

One study revealed that Bangkok was slowly sinking at a rate of 10 cm per year. This was attributed partly to excessive pumping of underground water, rising sea levels and climate change.

Unless the government faces this head-on by constructing dikes around Bangkok, the city will be 50 cm to one meter below sea level by 2025, the research added.

In 2004 and 2007, severe flood inundated 50 to 65 percent of Jakarta.

In Dhaka, many people are left homeless in yearly flooding.

Now, is there a solution to the problem that is already here? Are we doomed? Experts and environmentalists say no. There are many ways to mitigate the effects of climate change. *ANN*

RP reaps golden harvest

From page A1

Ryan Mendoza emerged as the Games' first duathlon champion while veteran Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and new partner Jose Rodriguez prevailed in the men's doubles sculls of rowing in Pattaya City.

Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and Marlon Manalo contributed the last gold as the sun set here in the 9-ball doubles by crushing their Singapore rivals in the finals, 11-6.

Ferrera, a well-built Army man, improved his Games record of 60.47 meters set in 2005 back home to 60.98 while Herrera was unchallenged in matching Arniel's third straight victory in these Games by topping the 3,000m steeplechase in 8 minutes 54.21 seconds.

Torres was in second place behind Thai Thitima Mauangjan who took the lead with a 6.25m effort on her third jump. But the first of nine gold medalists in the sport two years ago produced a jump of 6.31m on her last crack to keep the title in an event that was once the exclusive preserve of the retired Elma Muros.

The rowers also produced a silver in the men's lightweight double sculls through Nestor Cordova and Alvin Amposta, Tolentino's old paddlemate in 2005, and a bronze in the women's category of the same event through Clothelde Nillas and Johna Lyn Pedrita.

Also coming up with silvers were freestyle wrestlers Gemma Silverio (women's 59 kg) and Alven Aragon (74 kg), runner Miguel Dique in the men's 800 meters and Harlene Orendain in the women's individual epee.

The boxers

The boxers made it 4-1 for the day with the lone loss inflicted by Thailand's Non Thaboonjamnong as he stopped welterweight Wilfredo Lopez in the second round.

Defending women's light flyweight champion Alice Kate Aparri led the RP victors by eliminating Mya Mu Chay Naw of Burma (Myanmar). Men's light fly Albert Pabila, bantamweight Junel Cantancio and lightweight Joegen Ladon followed Aparri in the medal round by outpointing their respective foes.

But the country couldn't weave the old Mamiit-Taino magic in men's tennis even as wushu's Rene Catalan, one of four Asian Games gold medalists last year in Doha, Qatar, bowed out in sanshou's 52-kg division late Friday.

Teaming up for the country since their bronze performance in the Asiad men's doubles, Fil-Ams Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino found Thai twins Sonchat and Sonchai Ratiwana too tough this time and bowed, 4-6, 2-6, as the host country won the tie, 2-1.

Danai Udomchoke somehow exacted revenge with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Mamiit earlier in a match between the men's singles finalists two years ago in Manila which the Fil-Am ace won.

Taino extended the match by upending Weerapat Doakmaiklee in the second singles, 6-1, 6-4.

The loss left the defending champion Filipino netters with only a bronze like their female counterparts, who absorbed a 3-0 whipping from the Indonesians.

Bronze medals

Also contributing bronze medals were August Benedicto in the men's division and Analisa Dysangco in the women's section of the duathlon; Joanne Franquelli in women's individual saber, dancers Reynato Mercado and Judith Melencio in Latin American cha-cha-cha, Reyes and Rosete in standard waltz and Rolando Canlas Jr. in the men's individual foil.

The female swimmers could do no better than two bronzes courtesy of Jaclyn Pangilinan in the women's 100 breaststroke and the women's team in the 4 x 100 freestyle relay. Kendrick Uy also placed third in the men's 100 freestyle.

The 5-foot-1 1/2 Catalan, winner in the 48-kg division two years ago and plucked out of semi-retirement as a last-minute replacement, narrowly lost to Vietnam's Thang Anh Phan of Vietnam, 1-0.

Mark Eddiva got the boot from another Vietnamese in sanshou's 65-kg division, but Benjie Rivera seemed to have a clear path in the 56-kg class after hurdling Thai favorite Sanchai Chomphunpuang.

Water polo

The Filipinos launched their bid for the water polo title with a 15-6 crushing of Malaysia while the female beach volley team—Michelle Carolino-Michelle Laborte and Diane Pascua-Heide Ilustre—outclassed their respective Laos and Malaysian rivals.

SPIRITS IN DAR: Farmers from Sumilao butcher six native chickens and a pig as part of the rites for the Tagibugta, the land spirit that they claim is now residing in the main office of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City. JIMMY DOMINGO/CONTRIBUTOR

Ex-DAR chief: Sumilao is one case I'm certain ...

From page A1

lao, the facts are very clear. There was a violation of the conversion order. The farmers have the right to reclaim the land under the CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program)."

'Volatile situation'

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo has expressed more concern about the Sumilao case over other issues.

"The President feels that this is a volatile situation," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday on the phone.

He was referring to Ms Arroyo's instruction for an immediate resolution to the land dispute, which she relayed from Spain during a video conference on Friday with the Cabinet national security cluster.

Gonzalez said the Left had been "trying to get into the act."

"Pinapasukan ng Kaliwa," he said.

Malacañang is leaving it to Pangandaman to rule on the land dispute.

But Pangandaman had said he would not be able to do so until after the farmers and the new landowner, San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI), had submitted their respective position papers.

The contending parties have until tomorrow to comply.

Abad said all Pangandaman had to do was follow what Ernesto Garilao, who served as DAR secretary in 1992-98, did—affirm the right of the Sumilao farmers to the land and revoke the conversion order issued in 1996 by Malacañang.

"Why does he (Pangandaman) need more time to study the case when his predecessors were clear that the farmers have the right to claim the land? All he has to do is reiterate Garilao's decision," Abad said.

Land use conversion

In 1994, Garilao denied the petition for land use conversion of the then landowner, the Quisumbing family, and awarded the 144 hectares to 137 farmers in April 1995.

The Quisumbings appealed the case in the Office of the President, and in March 1996 then Executive Secretary Ruben Torres reversed Garilao's decision and approved the land-use conversion from agricultural to agro-industrial.

In 1999, the Supreme Court upheld Torres' decision, which led to the cancellation of the certificates of land ownership award that the DAR had issued to the farmers.

The farmers embarked on their 1,700-km march to Metro Manila on Oct. 10. They reached their destination early last week, and vowed not to leave the DAR until Pangandaman had issued a cease-and-desist order against SMFI's construction and operation of a hog farm.

They contend that the land should again be covered by CARP because the Quisumbings did not undertake any of the promised developments during the required five-year conversion period, but instead sold the property in 2002 to SMFI, a subsidiary of San Miguel Corp.

They maintain that the conversion order should be revoked under DAR rules.

Pangandaman has allowed the farmers to put up makeshift huts in front of the DAR office and given them access to water, electricity and toilet facilities.

In farmers' favor

Abad said CARP was a reform measure, and that "if there is any doubt about the law, the law should always be interpreted in favor of the farmers."

He said SMFI had taken a big risk in acquiring the disputed property for the hog farm project of its affiliate firm, Monterey Foods Inc.

"They knew there were issues on the land. Now they have almost finished their hog farm. But regardless of what they are doing on the property, they have to reckon with the issues and face the consequences," he said.

Abad said Ms Arroyo could still make a decisive move to resolve the case in the farmers' favor.

"Even if Malacañang had remanded the case to the DAR, the President still has the power to decide for the farmers because the DAR is her alter ego," he said.

Gonzalez said that during Friday's video conference, Ms Arroyo told Pangandaman to "pursue" the earlier commitment of SMFI officials to resolve the problem with the farmers.

He said Ms Arroyo wanted immediate action because Church officials had also expressed concern about the matter.

In her opening statement at the conference, Ms Arroyo underscored the need for the government to look into the plight of the poor, including farmers seeking aid and justice.

Reflection and rest

According to Arlene Bag-ao of the legal support group Balaod Mindanao, the farmers will spend Sunday in reflection and planning.

"They will assess the results of their march, especially in Metro Manila, and at the same time take a rest. This is so far the longest time they are stationary," she told the INQUIRER.

Bag-ao, who accompanied the farmers on their 60-day march, said she and other lawyers were busy drafting the position paper ordered by Pangandaman to be submitted tomorrow.

On Friday, the farmers marched from the DAR to Malacañang, intending to present to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita a letter from Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales expressing support for their plight.

But they were barred at the gates and no Palace official came out to meet them. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Anniversary Read-Along a festival of kids' stories

From page A1

"Almost every night, when possible, I read them a story or two," Romualdez said. "I asked them to help me choose a book. When I told them I was going to read [a story to children], they asked, 'Can we help?'"

She added: "I really believe in this program because there's nothing like getting kids excited about reading. It's nice to see faces light up when they listen to a story being read."

119 books

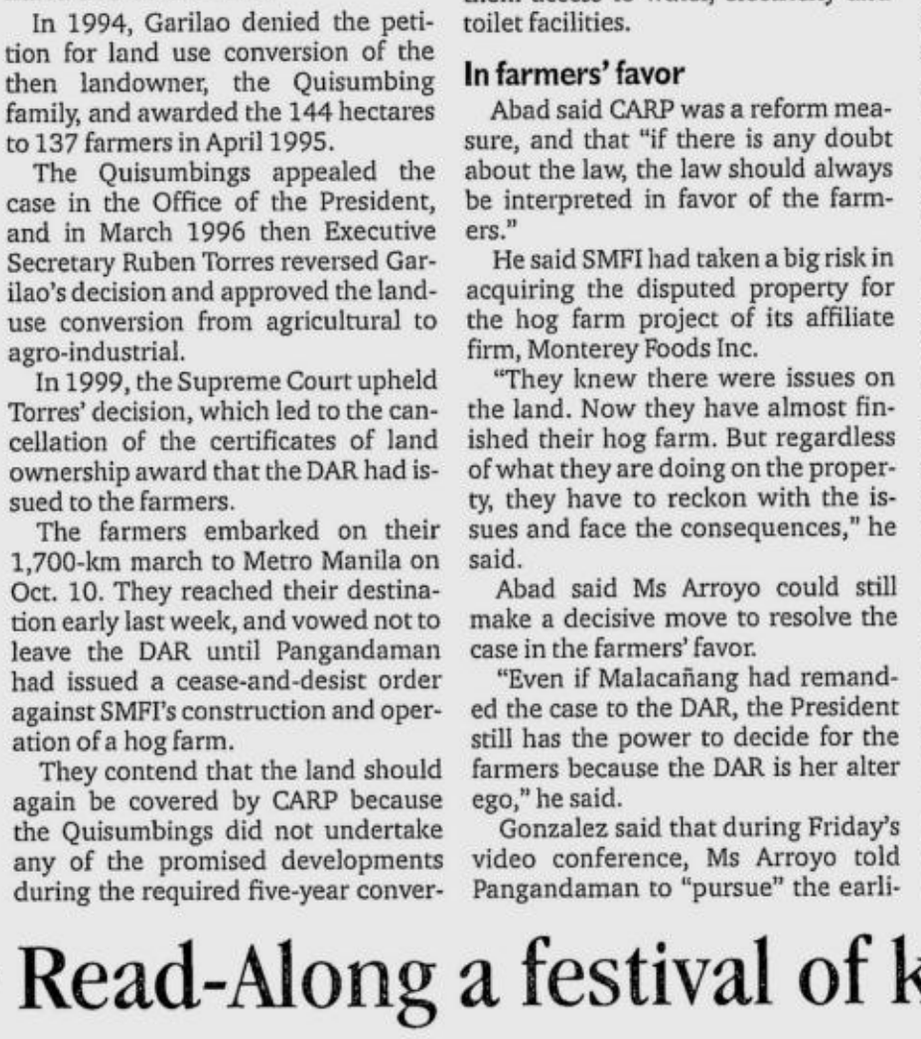
Also excited about the Read-Along was another special guest, Socorro Ramos of the National Book Store Foundation, Inc. (NBSFI), the official socio-civic arm of National Book Store, which is committed to making books more accessible to readers.

"The activity is fantastic. I never thought children are that interested," Ramos said. "*Tuwang-tuwa ako. Nakita ko talagang* very enthusiastic *ang mga bata* (I am so happy. I saw that the children are very enthusiastic)."

Ramos was there to personally hand over more than a hundred children's storybooks for the INQUIRER library. The books were received by Romualdez and INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot.

Storytelling in tandem

Alitaptap storytellers Rodriguez and Chua read Angelita Aragon's "Ang Magkaibigan" in tandem. Rodriguez read and acted out the character *Kalapati* (Dove) and Chua did the same with the character *Langgam* (Ant).



FOUNDING CHAIR of the National Book Store, Socorro Ramos, donates more than a hundred children's storybooks to the INQUIRER library. INQUIRER president Sandy Romualdez and publisher Isagani Yambot receive the generous gift. ROMY HOMILLADA

It was Rodriguez's eighth time as guest reader and it was Chua's fourth.

"For me, each session is a different experience," said Rodriguez, a popular figure among the regular attendees of the Read-Along sessions.

"I can see and feel the kids' excitement when a story is being told," added Chua.

Rapt attention

Scholastic's Belen read "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed," while five Scholastic book fair staffers wore monkey masks.

The kids listened in rapt attention.

Belen observed: "It doesn't matter if the story is in English or Filipino, if it is engaging, they will listen."

Teachers from Sophia School brought seven of their students and treated the children to different storytelling techniques.

Eight-year-old Kahlil Gibran Abacan read Rose Torres-Yu's "Hardinerong Tipaklong," while five Sophia students performed the story "Prinsesa Marmol," the Filipino version of Sleeping Beauty.

Theatrical storytelling

Sophia teacher Osang de la Vega and student Joseph Andrew Urian performed the Filipino adaptation of "Love You Forever," combining book-based and theatrical storytelling. Narrating the story was Doray Carable.

Other teachers who participated in the Read-Along were Ellie Carable, Dhang Bernabe, Beth Castro and Flor Liban. The performer-students included Erika Mae Jurado, Christopher Alec Soriano, Zach Zuñiga, Aina Marie Reyes and Eliza Marie Doria.

Yesterday's session was sponsored by NBS and NBS Foundation, Scholastic, Vibal Publishing, Hands on Manila and Krispy Kreme.

Launched in May, the Read-Along aims to gather children aged seven to 13 for story-reading sessions with celebrities and popular role models for the youth. *For inquiries, send an e-mail to inquirer-readalong@inquirer.com.ph.*

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East Visayas rice yield up despite havoc from typhoons

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—RICE PRODUCTION in Eastern Visayas continued to register growth despite the recent typhoons that swept through the region.

Leo Cañeda, regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture, said the region's palay yield this year reached 948,000 metric tons, up from the 831,000 MT palay production in 2006.

"We must be lucky as we were not battered by the typhoons that hit our region. And I am confident that we can hit our target yield for next year," Cañeda said.

Record harvest

Eastern Visayas, composed of six provinces, was hit by typhoons "Lando" and "Mina" last November.

Cañeda said the 14.2 growth in palay harvest in 2007 was the highest recorded in the entire country. He also projected a 10 percent increase in palay yield next year.

The region's annual rice consumption stands at 425,000 MT. It exports the rest of the harvested palay to other areas, including Central Visayas.

Cañeda attributed the continued increase of the region's rice production largely to the use of hybrid rice.

Hybrid producers

Only 15 percent of the region's 200,000 farmers used hybrid rice, he said, but their production helped boost the palay yield in Eastern Visayas. Their output accounted for 25 percent of the region's total palay yield, Cañeda said.

Farmers using the hybrid rice variety could expect a harvest of 140 cavans or seven tons per hectare.

In contrast, he said, farmers using the non-hybrid rice could harvest only 90 cavans or four tons per hectare during harvest.

Cañeda also credited the local government for their efforts to increase rice production as having contributed to the growth.

The DA's quick-turn around (QTA) strategy also helped increase the region's rice production, Cañeda said.

Eastern Visayas has two cropping season, the dry season from May to October and the wet season from November to April. But under the QTA strategy, farmers can still plant from end of August until September and harvest before the end of the year.

He said the QTA accounts for 8 percent of the region's rice production.

With sustained growth in the region's rice production, Cañeda said that Eastern Visayas is on its way to becoming one of the country's leading rice producing regions.

German paper helps give legs, hope to girl mistaken for dog

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—A 9-year-old vegetable vendor, who was mistaken by a retired German teacher for a dog because she crawled through this city's market on her hands, got her first pair of artificial legs, thanks to the charity fund of Bild, one of Germany's largest circulated newspapers.

For that gift of walking from Bild Hilft-Ein Herz fuer Kinder (Bild Helps-A Heart for Children), Rodina Canlas now keeps "two birthdays."

That thought came through as the INQUIRER asked how old she was.

"I'm 9 years old now and my legs, they're just 13 days old," Canlas said.

Feasting on a pack of corn chips, she said: "They'll be a month old on Dec. 23."

'I have feet now'

Why did she have to keep two birthdays, the other being on the day she was born, Nov. 3? "*Kasi may paa na ko* (Because I have feet now)," she said.

"My classmates have stopped calling me *putol*. I even danced in a [school] program last week," she said, the confidence beaming through her face.

Those in the car with Canlas, her "Tito (uncle)" and "Tita (aunt)," Heinrich Treutner and Irene Valenton, stared at each other, surprised at the girl's remarks.

Pondering later on Canlas' thoughts after he brought her to her Math and English tutorial classes at the Columban College, Treutner, 72, said: "I think she felt that the prosthesis gave her a new birth."

Canlas' father, Rolando, said his daughter was "very, very happy" after doctors and technicians at the Philippine Orthopedic Center in Quezon City fitted her with the prosthesis on Nov. 23.

They had to perform a surgery to separate the skin and flesh that tightened behind her legs.

"She has become studious," her mother, Magdalena, said.

First time

"My daughter never felt how it was to walk. This is her first time to walk," said Rolando.

Canlas was barely 6 months old when doctors had to cut her legs to stop the spread of infection. The wounds came from a fire that burned the family's former house in Barangay Kalaklan. The family's gas lamp fell on Canlas' legs and this started the fire.

Her hands had become her legs. She used those to climb their house, a two-room shack, in the hilly part of Barangay Libas.

Hands were what she also used when she sold eggplants and tomatoes in between or after school at the Olongapo City Elementary School (OCES).

On Wednesday last week, she was still learning to use her new legs and feet.

Her brother, Armando, 20, would help her go up and down the hill. At the OCES, she would try to hold onto anything—a metal railing, concrete posts or trees—to maintain her balance.

Canlas was unsure of what she would be in the future as her family was struggling against poverty.

Mistaken for a dog

What she was sure about, she said, was that her parents were working hard and that her artificial legs and feet can take her to school now. The prosthesis would be replaced with a bigger pair as she grows up.

It was in April 2006 when Treutner met Canlas.

"I saw her in the *palengke* (market). She was crawling like a dog. I thought I saw a dog. I realized she has a nice face. She was afraid of me and she ran. I followed her," he said.

The German tourist, who became a friend of the Aeta of Zambales, then looked for Valenton, a woman from Holland who married a Filipino engineer.

Treutner and Valenton first met when some expatriates referred him to her.

As executive chair of the Lotus Foundation, Valenton has worked with Treutner since 2005 to help several Aeta in San Marcelino to get to college or buy carabaos to revive farms damaged by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions in Castillejos town.

German aid

Back in Germany, Treutner's student, Wolfgang Inhester, helped raise funds.

Bild gave 12,000 euros (about P735,480). Treutner entrusted the fund to Valenton's group.

The amount not only went to helping Canlas. It funded the heart surgeries and treatment of Salome Javier, 40; Rachelle Ann Fabrigas, 16; Flordelina Natividad, 21; and Jhewell Ann Ballon, 17.

The money is being complemented by an American organization so it could assist two more young people—Joshua Andrade, 17, and Jae Ann de la Cruz, 15—get their open heart surgeries.

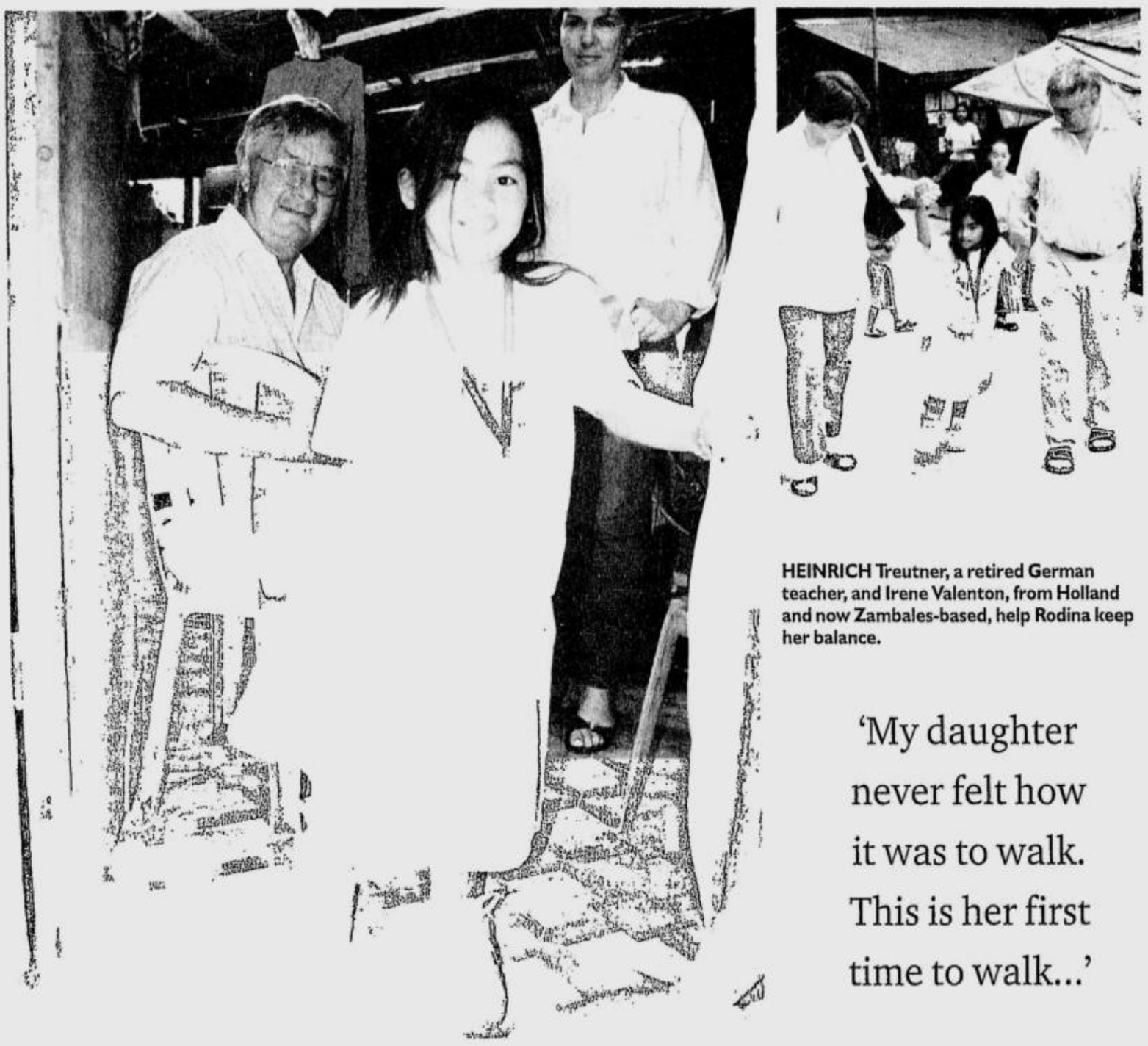
Four more children got artificial hands and legs through the Indian-Filipino organization, Mahaveer Foundation, which Valenton had linked with earlier.

With the help of Conrado Lim, the Olongapo Physical Medicine Rehabilitation Center and Chest Clinic of Dr. Cesar Lim provides free therapy to Canlas and other poor patients referred to by the Lotus Foundation.

Valenton, who has displayed a good knack for connecting people in need and people of goodwill, called Bild and Treutner "as among God's blessings."

Beaches, forests, birds and other nature's sights, said Treutner, are not the only reasons he comes to Zambales when winter descends on Germany.

"Children in need now do," he said.



A BEAMING Rodina emerges from her home in Zambales standing for the first time after receiving artificial legs and feet.

PHOTOS BY TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

HEINRICH Treutner, a retired German teacher, and Irene Valenton, from Holland and now Zambales-based, help Rodina keep her balance.

'My daughter never felt how it was to walk. This is her first time to walk...'

Soldiers wage different war vs deadly worms in village

SIAYAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE—Soldiers here have found a new enemy that they need not fight with guns, but with persistence and a bit of medical knowledge.

Col. Joel Ybañez, commander of Task Force 13 based in neighboring Sindangan town, said the sudden shift in the campaign, from counter-insurgency to health advocacy, was made "after we learned about 70 people who died recently and families or relatives of our militia forces were not spared by this mysterious disease."

Ybañez, former operation chief of Western Mindanao Command, said he could not believe that microscopic worms were behind the deaths of residents in 13 villages of this town.

Action

"We have to do something. We cannot just ignore the people, children and women dying while we try to insist on our campaign in communities that hardly enjoy immediate services such as medical attention," Ybañez said.

SOLDIERS are heroes, as these children at the Libingan ng mga Bayani showed last All Souls' Day, even in peace when they are called to perform various roles, including caring for the sick as they did in a Zamboanga del Norte village.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Maj. Vicente Erojo, deputy chief of Task Force 13, said they had to focus on their new mission "because residents here require our services like vehicles to transport and evacuate serious patients."

"Seeing Army soldiers offering their trucks to our people is a big help to everyone," Emiliano Villalon, chair of Barangay Moyo, said.

Moyo is about 7 km of rough road from the town center. Residents have to cross rivers, which are six feet deep during rainy season, and pay as much as P35 per passenger for a motorcycle ride.

New roles

Erojo said his soldiers have now become social workers, teachers, health personnel and even drivers.

"Sometimes I cannot blame some residents in remote areas to sympathize with lawless groups like NPA. Whenever these insurgents have a chance to pass by communities that are dejected due to abject poverty, inaccessibility to health, education and agricultural services, some villagers could easily be swayed," he said.

Erojo admitted that he first thought villagers did not go to health centers because they were afraid of syringes.

"I was wrong," he said.

Edelita Modindo, whose husband Rolando and 3-year old daughter Ravena have capillariasis, said the medicines at the health centers were not for free.

Gloria Maladia, 50, said they would not traverse two rivers and go to the health center where medicines are being sold.

"We know that the medicines are not for free," Maladia said.

Miscommunication

Dr. Raymund Nadela, municipal health officer, explained that there was some sort of miscommunication regarding the sale of medicines at the health center.

"There was only one incident where we got short of dextrose and paracetamol and we bought the medicines at the Botika Sa Barangay and charged the patient," Nadela said.

"People are dying and they were supposed to fill in more supplies and even if they got the medicines from the Botika Sa Barangay, we were not supposed to pay for it," Modindo said. ***Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao***

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Maranao folk lose a respected leader

By the Inquirer Bureau
Iligan City

THE MARANAO FOLK ARE mourning the death of Dr. Mahid Mutilan, a respected Muslim religious leader and among the acknowledged titans of peace advocacy and inter-religious dialogue in Mindanao.

Mutilan was killed in a car accident on Dec. 6 in Gitagum, Misamis Oriental around 5 a.m. while rushing from Marawi to Cagayan de Oro to catch the first plane flight to Manila.

His driver, Hasan Miraato, reportedly lost control of the vehicle. Both were rushed to a hospital in Cagayan de Oro.

Mutilan died along the way while Miraato was in critical condition.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, said Mutilan's vehicle plunged into a cliff when its driver tried to evade another vehicle that crossed its path along the Misamis highway.

Goltiao said Mutilan was pinned to death and rescuers had a hard time retrieving his body.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza has sought the help of the Philippine Air Force to dispatch a helicopter that helped retrieve the bodies of the victims.

Guide

By mid-day, Mutilan's remains were brought back to Marawi. Leaders of the Maranao community flocked to the family home to pay their last respects to a man they looked up to for religious guidance and political leadership.

"Mutilan is one of our best leaders and can even be counted as among Mindanao's, too," said Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the non-government Islamic Movement for Electoral Reform and Good Governance (IMERGG).

"He cared for his people," Dalidig said of how Mutilan regarded the Maranao folk.

A native of Marawi, Mutilan holds the Maranao title of "Guro sa Marawi," meaning a learned leader.

An Islamic scholar who holds a doctorate in theology, Mutilan is president of the Ulama League of the Philippines which groups Muslim religious leaders in the country.

DR. MAHID Mutilan in one of the meetings in Malacañang last Sept. 12. LYN RILLON

With Roman Catholic Bishop Fernando Capalla and Bishop Hilario Gomez of the Protestant National Council of Churches of the Philippines, Mutilan co-founded the Bishops-Ulama Conference (BUC) in 1996 and has since been a co-convenor of the regular Bishops-Ulama Forum (BUF).

The BUF seeks to promote Muslim-Christian dialogue by holding a meet among its religious leaders on a regular basis and at all levels of society. The BUF meets every three months; priests, imams and pastors hold regular fora and plan a variety of Christian-Muslim activities among the youth, social workers and other groups.

This formation has been instrumental in bridging Mindanao's sociocultural and religious divides, and as a platform, as well, for advocating sustained efforts to end the island's many conflicts, especially the Moro rebellion.

During the Estrada presidency, Mutilan served as a member of the all-Mindanaoan panel of the government negotiating a peace deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). This historic panel also included former Mindanao State University president Dr. Emily Marohombsar, women leader Irene Santiago, and Cotabato City Mayor Muslimen Sema. It was chaired by Dureza.

In the late 1980s, Mutilan founded and led the Marawi-based Ompia Party, a political party that focuses on the central and western Mindanao regions as its constituency.

According to Dalidig, this constitutes the beginnings of Mutilan's campaign to bring into mainstream local politics the tenets of Islam.

"In Islamic practice, political governance is supposed to be subservient to the sacrosanct teachings of the Holy Book," said Dalidig.

But this was never a reality in Muslim communities because the mainstream system "provides a dividing line between the two," he added.

In 1988, Mutilan went into politics through a candidacy and eventual victory as Marawi city mayor. In 1992, he ran and won as Lanao del Sur governor. He stayed in the gubernatorial post for nine years, completing three straight terms in office.

Mutilan's 1988 candidacy signaled the more aggressive involvement of Muslim religious leaders in political governance.

In 2001, he ran for vice governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in tandem with Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Dr. Parouk Hussin, clinching victory under the auspices of Malacañang.

While ARMM vice governor, Mutilan also served as regional education secretary in a concurrent capacity.

In 2005, Mutilan lost to Zaldy Ampatuan, son of Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan, in the bitterly contested ARMM polls which also saw the hands of Malacañang working.

In a statement from the BUC, Bishop Fernando Capalla said the group "lost a valuable and sturdy pillar" in Mutilan.

Mutilan's burial rites were set just before dusk on Dec. 7 in keeping with Islamic custom.

"Allah is great. From Him we came, to Him we return," Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, who is also MNLF secretary general, said of Mutilan's untimely death.

Former Lanao del Sur Rep. Bensing Macarambon said Mutilan was "a rare Maranao Muslim whose heart is for the poor, perhaps because of his knowledge of Islam which means peace and co-existence whether rich or poor."

Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Cotabato, said Mutilan's untimely death was a blow to peace efforts in southern Philippines.

"It saddened us because it came shortly after we had just celebrated the Mindanao Week of Peace," Bagaforo said.

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, said Mutilan's demise was a very sad news for those aspiring for the attainment of peace in Mindanao.

Dedicated man

"We lost a dedicated man. We lost a very influential person in our quest of genuine peace in Mindanao," Kabalu said through text messages.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal told the INQUIRER in separate interview that a five-man delegation from their organization was to go to Marawi City to personally convey their condolences to Mutilan's family.

Aleem Elias Macarandas, a member of the BUC's tripartite committee, said Mutilan's death was a great loss not only to the Muslim community but to the entire nation.

"In the name of Ulama and Muslim communities, we are extending our condolences to the families of our beloved brother," Macarandas said.

"The day before he died, he told a group of people in Marawi City that the time has come for peace and development in Mindanao because the people, military and rebel groups are now moving toward peace and nonviolence activities," Macarandas, also president of Philippine Muslim Welfare Society, added.

Ryan D. Rosauro, Julie Alipala, Richel Umel, Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Mindanao bloggers unite for peace

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

WHILE MOST GATHERINGS of bloggers are nailed on how to possibly earn huge money from this cyber exchange, which is almost as mundane as updating one's web log, the first Mindanao Bloggers' Summit talked about how to strive for peace.

Attended by almost a hundred bloggers from various parts of the island on Oct. 28 at the NCCC mall in Davao City, the summit aimed to promote the diverse cultures and identities of Mindanao in the hope of narrowing gaps that provoke conflict and misunderstanding.

A number of those who came were journalists, writers, artists and students, who even passed a resolution encouraging other bloggers to write about Mindanao as a "contribution to fostering understanding and peace."

One of the summit's major supporters, the United Nations Act for Peace Programme, and the INQUIRER Mindanao Bureau drafted the resolution.

All shapes and sizes

The summit seeks "to bring together bloggers of all shapes and sizes, of varied beliefs and convictions, to a common venue, and hopefully together come up with answers to this question: What can we accomplish as bloggers to contribute to peace and understanding?" Oliver Robillo, the organizers' team leader, said.

Robillo said the bloggers must open the windows to what is Mindanao for the world to see and appreciate, contrary to what is often highlighted in local and foreign media.

"Even our fellow Filipinos in Luzon and the Visayas are blind to the reality of our island," he said.

"Through our collective voices, we will be able to effect certain improvements. By letting our blogs' readers see our everyday lives, our work, our involvement, our passions—which we write about—they will be given a glimpse of the true images of Mindanao," Robillo said.

"By our blogging, the negative publicity surrounding the Philippine South might soon be overcome."

According to the resolution, the bloggers would exploit the new medium of expression and information exchange to write stories about the "beauty of Mindanao's people, culture, places, creativity as their contribution to foster understanding and peace on the island."

> The bloggers would exploit the new medium of expression and information exchange to write stories about the 'beauty of Mindanao's people, culture, places, creativity as their contribution to foster understanding and peace on the island'

Peace agents

"The participants have held Mindanao close to their hearts and are aware of its diverse people, rich cultures and amazing places," it said. They "recognize the need to continually communicate with one another to know and understand Mindanao and its people through the available technology."

Now posted at the www.mindanaobloggers.com, more bloggers said they were willing to become peace agents by supporting the resolution.

Fr. Albert Alejo, a peace advocate and one of the speakers, said peace building and promotion could be done in many ways, like writing stories about the goodness of people, especially those who are in the margins of society.

"We have to touch the heart where the violence starts ... we have to create more images that touch the heart," Alejo said.

The stories must tell about how government policies and officials further push the poor aside.

"Let us write about corruption because corruption is violence. Let us talk about Malacañang because Malacañang is violence," Alejo said.

"We have to start writing about the billions of dollars coming in if the final peace agreement is signed between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front ... we have to write about this before the money gets squandered by corrupt government officials."

JAILED broadcaster Alexander "Lex" Adonis when a group of journalists visited him inside the Davao Penal Colony in October this year. GERMELINA LACORTE

ADONIS with his family during happier days. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Duterte vows help for jailed broadcaster

By Germelina Lacorte
Davao City

FORMER BROADCASTER ALEX Adonis, who is serving time at the Davao Penal Farms after having been convicted of the libel case filed by Rep. Prospero Nograles, might benefit from the heated tiff between the lawmaker and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte vowed to help Adonis shortly after his television program on Sunday. He spewed diatribes on Nograles over issues ranging from the Oct. 29 barangay elections to the death of 12-year-old girl Mariannet Amper.

"I'm planning to help out," Duterte said, six months after Adonis was put to jail. "Just watch out. I'm making some moves, but I'm not going to reveal it now."

The mayor also called Nograles a "liar" for putting in prison a broadcaster, who reported on his alleged affair with a married woman.

Based on court records, Adonis tagged Nograles as the politician who ran naked in a Manila hotel when the husband of his alleged paramour caught them there. Nograles has denied that the incident ever took place and later sued Adonis and a tabloid.

The court convicted Adonis early this year and sent him to prison.

"There are some broadcasters who don't choose their words when they attack you on air but at the end of the day, you have to ask whether or not they're telling the truth," Duterte said in the vernacular.

He said it was "difficult when you go to prison just for telling the truth."

Depression

Adonis was recently admitted to the hospital because of depression and some form of lung illness, according to his wife Gladys.

She said her husband had lost weight and was even "thinking of ending his life."

Adonis' depression started when he applied for parole, she said.

"The information requiring him to appear for interview for his parole was only up to the gate (of the prison facility) and never reached him on the scheduled date," she said.

When Adonis learned of the requirement, it was already too late for him to comply. "He was so depressed," Gladys said.

The case has revived calls for the decriminalization of libel, a law that has been increasingly used by powerful politicians to suppress freedom of expression in the country, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

Duterte claims to be one of the signatories for the proposed measure to decriminalize libel when he was still a legislator.

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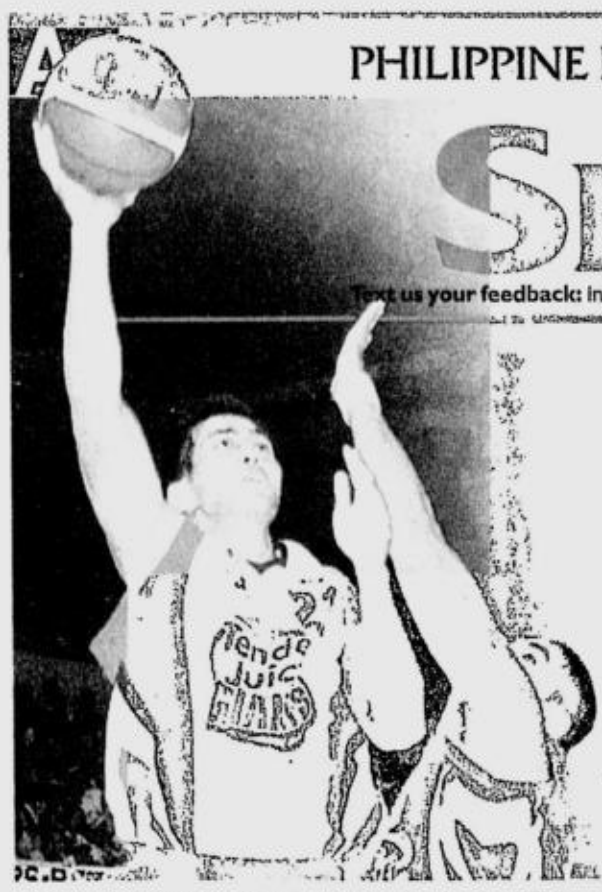


PUREFOODS' Kerby Raymundo tosses a hook off Talk 'N Text's Don Allado in their game late Friday night. The Phone Pals defeated the Giants, 101-98. PBA IMAGES

Red Bull clobbers Magnolia

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Welcoat
6:50 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Barangay Ginebra

By June Navarro

IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE CYRUS BAGUIO wasn't around.

Junthy Valenzuela and Celino Cruz pinched-hit for the team's absent top scorer after carrying Red Bull to a 94-88 demolition of Magnolia in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the San Sebastian Recoletos gym in Cavite City.

Valenzuela unloaded 10 of his 14 points in the last five minutes while Cruz preserved Valenzuela's brilliance with a triple that snuffed the life out of the Beverage Masters.

Cruz's triple with 26 seconds remaining provided a 90-85 cushion that completed Red Bull's stunning turnaround from 15 points down in the second half. Mick Pennisi also chipped in his share of gallantry by pacing the Bulls with 16 points and 12 rebounds for their eighth win in 12 games.

After duplicating their first-round triumph over the Beverage Masters, the Bulls charged back into solo second, just a full game behind idle Purefoods TJ Giants (9-3).

Baguio, the Bulls' chief gunner who averages 18 points per outing, sat out his second game in a row after contracting chicken pox last week.

Baguio's high-flying acts, however, were hardly missed as Pennisi and Valenzuela combined to fill in his scoring numbers and Cruz took charge in the stretch by nailing the game-winning shot in the end.

The Beverage Masters, who registered impressive back-to-back wins over the Giants and the Talk N Text Phone Pals, went down tied with the Alaska Aces at third (7-5).

Danny Seigle topped the Beverage Masters with 20 points and 12 rebounds while Danny Ildefonso finished with 17, a fitting birthday present had Magnolia come out victorious with a third straight win.

The scores:

RED BULL 94—Pennisi 16, Valenzuela 14, Duncil 13, Sharma 11, Cruz 11, Najorda 10, Ybanez 7, Membrere 5, Robinson 4, Bugia 3, Hrabak 0.

MAGNOLIA 88—Seigle 20, Ildefonso 17, Hontiveros 11, Villanueva 8, Tugade 8, Racela 8, Gonzales 5, Calaguio 5, Eman 4, Tenorio 2.

Quarters: 23-16, 41-all, 61-72, 94-88

More Sports stories and SEA Games updates on A23 to A26

Shoemakers, U-bikers tab finals slots

GAMES SATURDAY (*Rizal ballpark*)
9 a.m.— Dumaguete vs Cebu
1 p.m.—Marikina vs Manila

By Marc Anthony Reyes

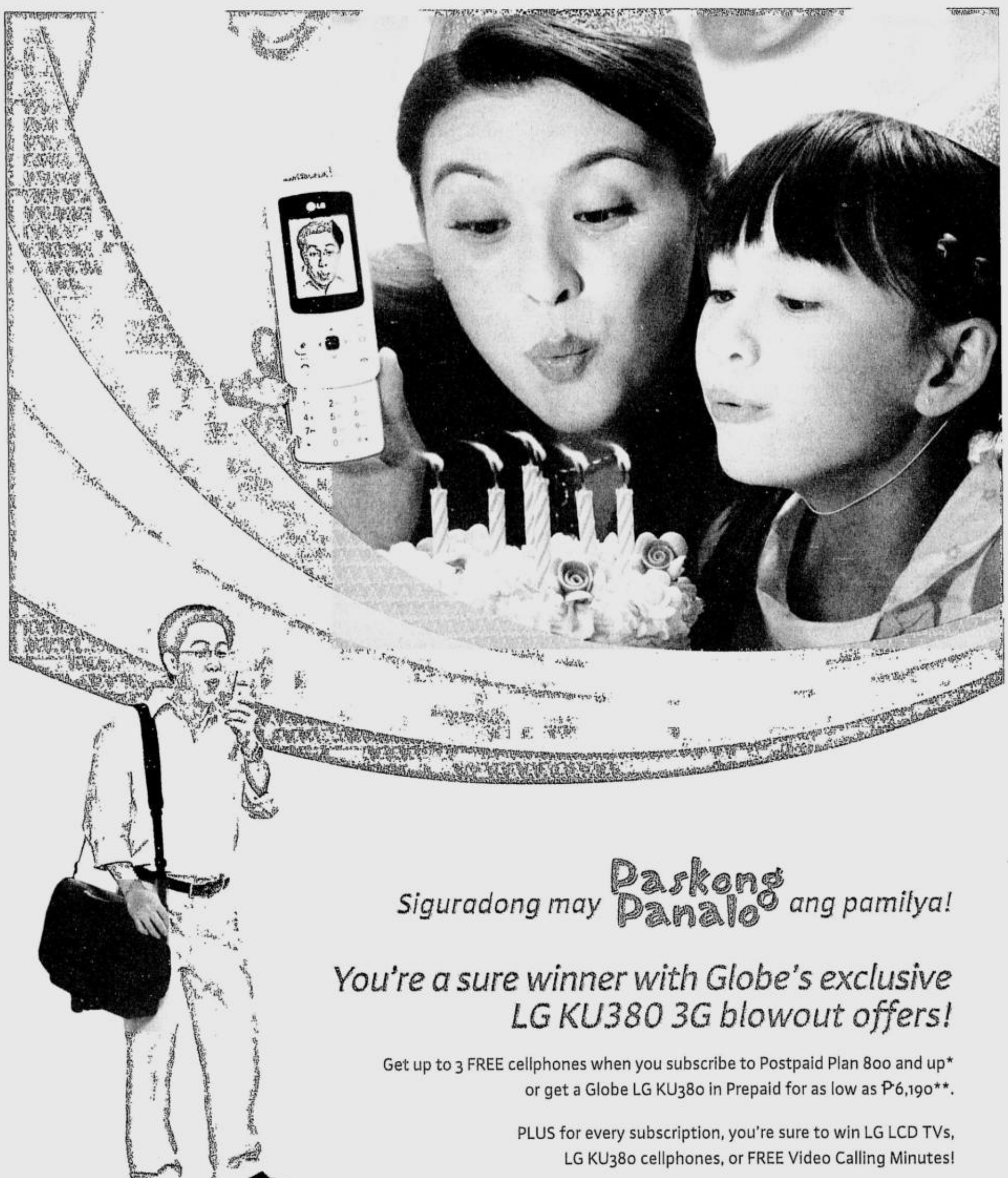
MARIKINA AND DUMAGUETE DISPOSED of their respective foes yesterday and made the finals of the North and South divisions of the Baseball Philippines Series 2 at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

Marikina pelted an untested South Korean closer to dethrone defending champion Makati, 6-4, even as Dumaguete exploded with four runs in the sixth inning to beat Taguig, 7-6, to secure slots in the championship matches of their respective divisions.

The Shoemakers will tangle with the top-ranked North division team Manila, while the Unibikers will take on South division's No. 1 eliminations topnotcher Cebu on Sunday in the playoffs where the Dolphins and the Sharks enjoy twice-to-beat advantages.

"We are very thankful that we managed to pull it off, but I know that there's still one more obstacle when we face Manila," Marikina coach Randy Dizer said in Filipino.

The Shoemakers got a little help from a Makati mound miserably orphaned by RP team ace pitcher Jonjon Robles, who is seeing action in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games.



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PUBLIC EXPOSURE BEHAVIOR

1st Dog Walk Summit tackles pet owners' responsibilities

By Marlet D. Salazar

A GERMAN SHEPHERD TIED TO A TREE in a pet-friendly campus looks harmless as he sits calmly in the shade.

But when a child comes by and pets him, he ends up with a bite in the hand.

Bishop, a friendly Pit bull terrier, walks in a park full of people with his owner by his side. Every person he meets steers clear of his path although unknown to them, Bishop is a sweet natured dog who would never bite anyone.

However, the recent stories about dog fights, where Pit bulls are pitted against each other, have created a negative impression of the breed. As a result, instead of admira-

1ST DOG/ A20

BISHOP, a Pit bull terrier, relaxes with his human, Jeff Ramos, in a public park where pet owners can bring their furry friends. RODEL ROTONI

Grand concert to benefit youth offenders

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE COUNTRY'S AWARD-WINNING choirs will share their music in a grand concert which aims to raise funds for children in conflict with the law.

Spearheaded by Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, the concert titled "Sing for Me" will be held today, Dec. 9, at the Marikina Sports Complex in Marikina City.

"The project's objective is to promote peace and unity through music and to deliver needed social services for child offenders," Cabral said.

Among those taking part in the concert are the Ateneo Glee Club, Ateneo Chamber Chorus, Loboc Choir, Adventist of Arts, UP Singing Ambassadors, the Madrigal Singers, Hail Mary the Queen Choir and Inmusicapella.

"Sing for Me is only one of the projects of the department which continuously seeks to promote the welfare of disadvantaged individuals, families and communities," Cabral said.

Raising awareness

The grand concert is the culmination of nearly three-month long series of mini concerts held in Metro Manila to increase public awareness of the plight of child offenders.

The project, which was launched in Sept. 22 in Quezon City, featured the UP Singing Ambassadors as the lead choir and various children community groups.

The launch was followed by a series of bimonthly concerts in at least five cities in the metropolis hosted by local government units.

Under Republic Act No. 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, LGUs are mandated to establish youth detention homes.

They should also set aside funds for the construction and operation of the detention centers.

According to Cabral, her department, as the lead agency in social welfare and development, should ensure that all sectors are provided with social protection.

Director Finard Cabilao of the Department of Social Welfare and Development said the money that would be raised in the project would be used to build a "Bahay-Pagasa (House of Hope)," a temporary dwelling for youth offenders in every town or city nationwide.

The official said that in the shelters, children in conflict with the law would undergo "processing"—they would be given enough space and time to reflect and to strengthen their character which they could later on use to assert their place in society as a strong and law-abiding citizen.

The transition homes, Cabilao said, can accommodate at least 20 to 25 offenders at a given time.

Better environment

"Our goal is to reform these children and integrate a rehabilitated and prepared child back into the community with the help of a better environment conducive to change and attention." the social welfare director said.

Ed Manguiat, founder of the UP Singing Ambassadors and co-organizer of the event, said that the choirs which are participating in the concert agreed to sing for free.

"Secretary Cabral has a soft spot in my heart and I know she truly wants to help the child offenders because among the sectors the department is helping, it's the offenders who get the least help," he said.

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lst Dog Walk Summit . . .

From page A19

tion, Bishop earns wary and fearful gazes from people in the park.

With more pet owners bringing their furry companions to public places, a safe and healthy interaction among humans and animals should always be observed, according to Joey Tiosayco, president of Lovepets.com, a pet welfare group.

Recently, the group and other dog walker clubs in Metro Manila signed a Unified Declaration on Policies toward Responsible Canine Public Exposure during the 1st Pack Leader Dog Walk Summit held in Pasig City.

The summit, organized by Lovepets.com (Love, Pets and Comradeship), was aimed at teaching pet owners to become more responsible and responsive to non-animal lovers in public places.

"In setting policies and provisions that must be adhered to by sectors involved, we can avoid accidents or untoward incidents involving humans and animals," explained Tiosayco.

Even if pets are already allowed in some establishments in Metro Manila, "we (animal owners) must not go out of bounds," he added.

Signs needed

So-called pet-friendly places don't even have signs or reminders on how people should handle their animals in public, Tiosayco said.

Canine health is one of the top considerations written in the unified declaration. It states that "dogs that will be brought to public places must have rabies shots. They must be subjected to anti-tick, flea, and heart worm prevention measures."

Owners whose bitches are in heat, show signs of sickness or have been diagnosed with infectious diseases are discouraged from taking them to enclosed spaces like restaurants and commercial areas where many people gather.

The declaration also holds humans responsible for their pets' every act. They are encouraged to be more tolerant and understanding of people who are not dog or animal lovers.

Petting of dogs must also be done with strict supervision, especially when it involves canines who may not be feeling well or are still undergoing behavioral training.

It would be better if the dogs wear bite prevention gear or muzzles. Owners or handlers should also carry their animals' vaccination records at all times, the declaration added.

The summit also served as a forum for government officials, veterinarians and animal welfare groups to discuss issues on human-animal coexistence.

Dr. Angel Mateo, director on animal welfare of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, gave a brief talk on existing laws (Animal Welfare Act of 1998 or Republic Act No. 8485 and Rabies Law of 2007 or RA 9482). He also discussed how an act can be considered a form of animal cruelty and the responsibilities of a pet owner.

On the other hand, Animal Kingdom Foundation Inc.'s external affairs officer, Luis Buenaflor, discussed the implementation of these laws.

Dr. Rey del Napoles, a veterinarian and vice president of the Animal Welfare Coalition, reminded dog owners of the things they have to remember before taking their dog out in public, common canine diseases, as well as how to prevent transmission and proper protection and grooming.

Debunking the myth

Tiosayco was joined by Pit bull owner Mario Policarpio in debunking the myth about large breed canines. Tiosayco said that German shepherds and Pit bull terriers are the most maligned and misunderstood breeds because they are always perceived as "dangerous."

Tiosayco explained, however, that "it is not the breed, but how the dogs are brought up by the owners."

To prove his point, he presented Bishop and his owner, Jeff Ramos. He encouraged people to pet the dog who seemed to be enjoying the attention he was getting.

Nearby, two German shepherds, under the supervision of their owners, played with children.

As more and more people take care of dogs and cats, their responsibilities do not end with feeding and giving the animals homes. They also have to ensure the peaceful coexistence of humans and animals.

The declaration, according to Tiosayco, will be presented to the government and the owners of establishments interested in opening their premises to pets.

"WE ARE awed by the magnitude of OFW remittances; yet it seems a lot of that foreign currency is just going out again as the Filipino elite park their money where they think it is safer than in the country."
TEDDY LOCSIN, August 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Pinay is first non-Chinese director of Amnesty International-Hong Kong

Milagros Isabel Cristobal Amar built up her expertise in rights advocacy in the long struggle for human rights in the Philippines

I'VE been doing this a long time, says Amar, formerly with the Free Legal Assistance Group and PCGG.

DANTE PERALTA

By Blanche S. Rivera
Hong Kong correspondent

THEIR FIRST QUESTION WAS: WHAT DO YOU know about human rights? From the other end of the line came an answer that began with a summation of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and spun off to a long list of present concerns about economic, social and civil rights.

When Milagros Isabel Cristobal Amar finally finished, the panel of interviewers from Amnesty International, the largest human rights organization in the world, could only say: "Wow, that was a lecture."

And so it was that the Filipino lawyer—despite her lack of Cantonese language proficiency—became a director of Amnesty International-Hong Kong (AIHK), the first non-Chinese to hold the post.

"I've been doing this a long time, you press a button and it comes out," she said, laughing.

"It" is her knowledge of the human rights situation built by her long history in the human rights movement in the Philippines.

UP activist

Amar was among the University of the Philippines' student activists bred during the turbulent years that culminated in the collapse of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986. One of the founders of the militant League of Filipino Students, she spent her undergraduate and law school years tackling human rights issues.

By the time she became a lawyer in 1988, her calling for human rights advocacy had been galvanized. She immediately joined the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), a team of idealistic lawyers taking up cases of the poor.

Before she left the country, Amar was special legal counsel of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, where she served under her mentor, the late Haydee Yorac. At the same time, she was also with the Kanlungan Center for Migrant Workers and other non-government organizations working for jail decongestion, women's rights and street children's welfare.

Price to pay

Her decision to veer away from a lucrative corporate career came with a price.

"My mother and I fought about it," she recalled.

"Of course, you're a lawyer; you're from UP, so your family expects you to go corporate,she said.

Amar, on the other hand, headed off to mountain camps and city jails, bailing out people arrested by police during rallies and other encounters, arguing with military lawyers, one of whom even dropped a grenade during a hearing that she thought would end everything.

Apathy due to good life

What Amar does now in the confines of the AIHK office in Kowloon is to get Hong Kong people interested in issues such as violence against women, torture and terror, human dignity, and the crises in Burma (Myanmar) and Pakistan.

The work is harder in the sense that most people in HK seem to find such issues alien to their lives, Amar said.

"You have to have a case, a profile, a story to make them understand and relate. In the Philippines, it's easier because when there is an issue, you see it in the papers: hold-up, kidnappings, etc.," she said.

Such apathy could be due to the good life people in Hong Kong have traditionally enjoyed despite the problems in housing, care for the elderly and discrimination against mainlanders.

"They don't see that there's a human rights problem in Hong Kong; they see it in China," she said.

"It's hard (to get them interested) but it can be done," she said.

Another obstacle

Another obstable to their grasp of the human rights situation worldwide is the lack of proficiency in English, the primary language used in the AI global campaign.

Amar represented AIHK in the annual AI directors' conference in Barcelona, Spain on Dec. 2-7, a scenario that never crossed her mind even when she was working with the AI to abolish the death penalty law in the Philippines a few years ago.

"Sometimes, I ask myself: What am I doing here?"

With the human rights scene in the Philippines gaining global attention for the countless extrajudicial killings of activists and journalists, Amar cannot help but lament: "Even if you add a thousand more lawyers there, *hay naku* ... " she trailed off, shaking her head at the rewards and frustration of human rights advocacy in the Philippines.

"I've worked it. I've lived it ... It was heart-wrenching, gut-wrenching," she said. And still she looks back.

Whether the Philippine human rights landscape will draw Amar back again is something the lawyer cannot answer for now. Let's just say, her former colleagues might have to call again later.

Former UP student leader heads Asian Migrant Center

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

ANOTHER PINOY PUTTING HIS activism to good use in Hong Kong is Rex Varona, former president of the University of the Philippines student council.

Rex, 42, moved to Hong Kong 20 years ago, initially as a researcher for a non-government organization concerned with Asian labor movements.

Eventually, he took up an offer to head the Hong Kong-based Asian Migrant Center.

The center shelters overseas workers, mostly Filipinos, who are victims of abusive employers. At the same time, it helps its members save money and invest it wisely back home.

Activist, volunteer

Fourth of six children, Rex came from a poor family in Iloilo City and worked himself through school as a door-to-door salesman of plates and utensils. Activism came naturally as students rallied for subsidized education and economic reforms. In 1991 he led the UP-Diliman student council.

"I never once thought of going abroad to work," said Varona who joined the non-government labor sector after college. "I did not know any relative or close friend who worked overseas," he added.

He said he accepted the research job in Hong Kong in 1993 as a means to explore other social movements, and learn from them.

Initial troubles

He said he had initial troubles adjusting to the culture in Hong Kong because of the language barrier.

Rex would discover that many problems faced by Asian workers—low wages, unsafe working conditions, lack of job security, and union busting—were the same problems faced by Filipinos back home.

He soon was drawn into the problems of Filipino overseas domestics. So he stayed on.

The job, he said, can sometimes be stressful. "But the campaign and the union work is enough to get me excited ... I really look forward to doing my job every day," Rex said.

The group already has investments in a chicken and vegetable farm in Mindanao, he revealed.

Rex goes home to Iloilo at least thrice a year to visit his family.

After more than a decade abroad, Rex looks forward to coming home for good and starting his own business—possibly an "indie film library and café" to share with friends.

A fraudulent immigration application could result in deportation

IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco

MORE THAN 20 YEARS ago, Salvacion was petitioned by her mother who was a green card holder. A condition for the approval of the petition for immigration was that Salvacion would be single upon arrival in the United States.

The petition of Salvacion was approved based on the representation that she was single. She was given a visa to enter the US in 1980. But Salvacion was in fact married; her husband and children followed a couple of years later.

Salvacion and her family established themselves in the US, making investments in business and property. Her husband established a lucrative medical practice. It seemed the American Dream was achieved by Salvacion's family.

Then one day, without warning, immigration examiners summoned Salvacion's family for deportation proceedings. The reason was the discovery that Salvacion had misrepresented her marital status when she entered the US.

Immigration stressed that Salvacion would not have been granted an immigrant visa had the consular officer known that she was already married. Her visa in 1980 was therefore defective.

Can this defect be remedied? Will all her equities in the US cure the defect of the visa?

Misrepresentation

But Salvacion and her family were not granted a waiver for the fraud. The Federal court ordered them to leave the country.

In a last ditch effort to save her family from deportation, Salvacion is hoping that a private bill from the US Congress will specifically allow them to continue to reside in the US.

There are many grounds for deportation under US immigration laws. One of the most common, aside from having a criminal history, is that matter of "fraud" in entering the US.

If at any time it is determined that fraud was committed by an individual in entering the US, no matter how long the individual has been staying in the US, that individual will be subject to deportation proceedings.

Benefit fraud

The US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are two agencies that are responsible for issuing visas and enforcing immigration laws. In the last year, the Fraud Detection and National Security Unit worked with the USCIS and the ICE to reduce the level of immigration benefit fraud. As a result of their efforts, thousands of fraud leads have been uncovered and more aggressive ways of dealing with individuals who receive immigration benefits through fraud have been strictly implemented.

The USCIS is now working with the Department of Homeland Security to prosecute those who have engaged in fraud. Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are being mobilized to pursue criminal prosecutions and financial seizures.

The P-2-2 Cases

In US immigration, the "second preference, family-based" category has been pinpointed as a source of a lot of fraud. These are often referred to as P-2-2 cases. These P-2-2 cases specifically refer to petitions by green card holders on behalf of their adult "unmarried" children. Being single is also a rule that applies to the first preference category covering adult children of US citizens.

It is not uncommon for a number of Filipino immigrants who are beneficiaries of either first or second preference categories to misrepresent their true marital status at the time they obtain their immigrant visas. Many even have so-called "secret" marriages, which actually are "secret" only to their own families as the US agencies can easily access public records of marriages in the Philippines.

What is not known to these beneficiaries is that while they may be able to migrate initially (i.e. "*nakalusot*") and obtain their green cards, their misrepresentation, once discovered, will have severe consequences.

This is what happened to Salvacion. Her fate and that of her family are now in the hands of legislators who may or may not enact private legislation to allow them to stay on.

Those who are beneficiaries of petitions requiring them to be "single," should take heed. Be aware that benefit fraud in immigration comes with the risk of federal prosecution as well.

The American Dream, even if achieved, can quickly turn into a nightmare if it was obtained through wrongful means.

(IMFO stands for Immigration Information. Tancinco may be reached at (02) 887-7177 or law@tancinco.com)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

CIA faces Congress probe over destroyed videotapes

WASHINGTON—THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE Agency faced the threat of obstruction-of-justice investigations on Friday from both the Justice Department and congressional committees over the destruction of videotapes of interrogations of Qaida operatives.

The Justice Department said it would review calls for a formal inquiry into the destruction of the tapes, while the House and Senate intelligence committees said they were opening investigations of their own into the episode, which Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., chair of the Senate panel, called "extremely disturbing."

Dana Perino, the White House spokesperson, said Friday that President Bush "has no recollection of being made aware of the tapes or their destruction" before this week. She added that the CIA and the White House counsel's office were reviewing the facts and would cooperate with any Justice Department inquiry.

The pressure for a full investigation into the handling of the tapes puts Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey in a difficult position early in his tenure because of the questions that arose at his confirmation hearings in October about his views on harsh CIA interrogation tactics.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups called Friday for the appointment of an outside counsel to examine possible criminal acts by the CIA, arguing that the Justice Department had proved unable in the past to adequately investigate claims of prisoner abuse against the administration.

The tapes, which showed severe interrogation methods against two Qaida operatives, Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, were made in 2002 and destroyed in 2005, the CIA acknowledged this week after being questioned about the issue by The New York Times. The agency said the tapes were destroyed in part to protect the identities of the interrogators.

Meanwhile, the former chairs of the Sept. 11 commission, who said the CIA assured them repeatedly during their inquiry that no original material existed from its interrogations of Qaida figures, said they were furious to learn about the tapes.

"The CIA certainly knew of our interest in getting all the information we could on the detainees, and they never indicated to us there were any videotapes," said Lee H. Hamilton, a Democrat and former US representative. "Did they obstruct our inquiry? The answer is clearly yes. Whether that amounts to a crime, others will have to judge."

Thomas H. Kean, a Republican former governor of New Jersey said: "I'm upset that they didn't tell us the truth." *NYT*

Wife of 'dead' Briton comes clean

LONDON—ANNE DARWIN said debts, love and spiraling lies made her go along with her husband's faked death and live with him in secret for years, in an extraordinary confession to British newspapers out Saturday.

"I know it seems too incredible to be true, but it is," she said, revealing details about the bizarre "back-from-the-dead" case of John Darwin and how they fooled the authorities, friends and even their two children.

"For three years, while virtually everyone close to us believed John was missing, presumed dead, he was actually at home with me."

She said he turned up 11 months after vanishing—then lived with her in secret.

Her husband, now 57, was fed up after five years of living a lie and decided to turn up at a London police station one week ago pretending he had amnesia in order to see their sons again, she said.

Anne Darwin, 55, spoke out in an interview carried in the Daily Mail and Daily Mirror tabloids. Her husband is being held by police on suspicion of fraud.

The pair had been trying to start afresh in Panama City this year. Anne Darwin has left Panama in the last few days and the Daily Mail's story was datelined Miami. She, too, is likely to be arrested if she returns to Britain.

Recounting the exceptional tale, she said the couple had about 12 houses as rental investments in County Durham, north-east England, and began to run up debts of tens of thousands of pounds.

John Darwin told her faking his own death was the only way out and on March 22, 2002, he took his canoe out to sea and did not return. *AFP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

31 were killed in Burma crackdown, says UN report

UNITED NATIONS—At least 31 people were killed in Burma (Myanmar) during the military government's crackdown on protests this fall, and arrests and night raids on suspected demonstrators are continuing, a UN human rights expert who visited the country last month said on Friday. In a report released in Geneva, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, a special rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Council, said that 500 to 1,000 people are still detained and that 1,150 political prisoners held prior to the demonstrations have not been released. In addition, 74 people are listed as missing in the aftermath of the clashes, which occurred in August and September when monks and thousands of civilians took to the streets to protest rising fuel prices and falling standards of living. "The figures provided by different sources may underestimate the reality, as not all family members reported missing persons, fearing reprisal and severe punishment," the report said. *NYT*

Pakistan emergency rule to end Dec. 15, says attorney general

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will lift emergency rule and restore the suspended constitution on Dec. 15, a day earlier than planned, Attorney General Malik Mohammad Qayyum said on Saturday. Musharraf imposed the emergency on Nov. 3—and was internationally condemned for it—suspended the constitution and purged the Supreme Court to fend off challenges to his reelection, which new hand-picked judges have since rubber-stamped. It was not immediately clear why Musharraf had decided to end the emergency a day early, though some opponents had been toying with the idea of demanding he bring forward the date to avoid a boycott of a Jan. 8 general election. *Reuters*

South Korea's worst oil spill

SEOUL—South Korean workers using skimmers and containment fences battled on Saturday to clean up the worst oil spill in the country's history, as part of the slick hit shore near a nature preserve on the west coast. A Hong Kong-registered tanker began leaking an estimated 10,500 tons of crude oil on Friday after a barge carrying a crane slammed into it while the tanker was anchored off Daesan port about 110 km southwest of Seoul. "A part of the slick reached the shores of Taean and onto the beaches. There are about 1,200 residents helping in the cleanup," said Cheon Myeong-cheol, a Taean coast guard official. The region is popular for its beaches and home to a national park. It is also an important rest stop for migratory birds. *Reuters*

Rescuers died in China mine blast

BEIJING—Dozens of miners rushed into a Chinese coal mine in a futile bid to save colleagues stricken by a gas explosion, almost doubling the death toll, state media said Saturday. The accident in Hongtong county in northern Shanxi province has claimed at least 104 lives, state television said, in the latest horrific accident to highlight appalling safety conditions in China's coal mining industry. Rescue work has been halted, indicating that rescuers have given up hope of finding any more survivors of the blast, which hit on Wednesday night. *AFP*

Negotiations on Kosovo fail

BRUSSELS, Belgium—US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice affirmed Friday that international negotiations over the future of Kosovo had reached a dead end, even as its probable new prime minister said Kosovo would not seek independence from Serbia until early 2008. After a meeting of Nato foreign ministers here, Rice indicated that diplomacy had been exhausted and that Washington was ready to move to the next phase. *NYT*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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WHAT'S INSIDE
Molina keeps RP afloat with 2nd gold/A25

Juvic pulls away by 4 /A26

RP track bets scoop 3 golds

Ferrera shatters SEAG record; Torres, Herrera also keep titles

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—ATHLETICS WAS THE biggest contributor to the Philippine gold medal cache on Saturday with strongman Arniel Ferrera leading the way with another Southeast Asian Games record in the hammer throw and petite Marestela Torres barely coming up with another golden leap.

Ferrera threw the hammer to a distance of 60.98 meters, smashing his 2005 Manila Games' record of 60.47 to scoop up the Filipinos' first gold medal in athletics, which promised a total of 10 in these Games.

Tantipong Phetchaiya and Yongjaros Kanju, both of Thailand, settled for the silver and bronze with efforts of 56.47 and 53.57, respectively.

Torres kept her women's long jump title with a leap of 6.31 meters on her final attempt, nipping the 6.25 of Thailand's Thitima Muangjan at His Majesty the King's 80th Birth Anniversary Stadium here.

Torres, who won the Philippines' first gold in Manila two years ago, actually surpassed the Thai in her fourth attempt. But the official measurement was taken from the spot where a loose portion of the competition number pinned on the back of her jersey touched.

"I knew that I could still do it, as long as I didn't foul the (final) attempt," the 26-year-old Torres, a corporal in the Philippine Army, said in Filipino after the awarding ceremony.

"I really tried to relax even though I knew that it was my last shot," added Torres, who failed to land a medal in her maiden SEA Games appearance in Vietnam in 2003.

The Philippines' third gold medal came in the men's 3,000m steeplechase where Rene Herrera, also the 2005 Manila Games winner, timed 8 minutes and 54.21 seconds to win comfortably over home bet Patikarn Peshricha, who checked in at 9:02.48.

Vietnam's Van Thang Tran took the bronze in 9:04.74.

Nelbert Ducusin, the second Filipino in the steeplechse field, wound up fourth at 9:13.29.

Midel Dique narrowly lost what could have been a fourth RP gold in the men's 800 meters, losing to Vietnam's Nguyen Dihn Cuong, who clocked 1:51.16. Dique settled for the silver in 1:52.72.

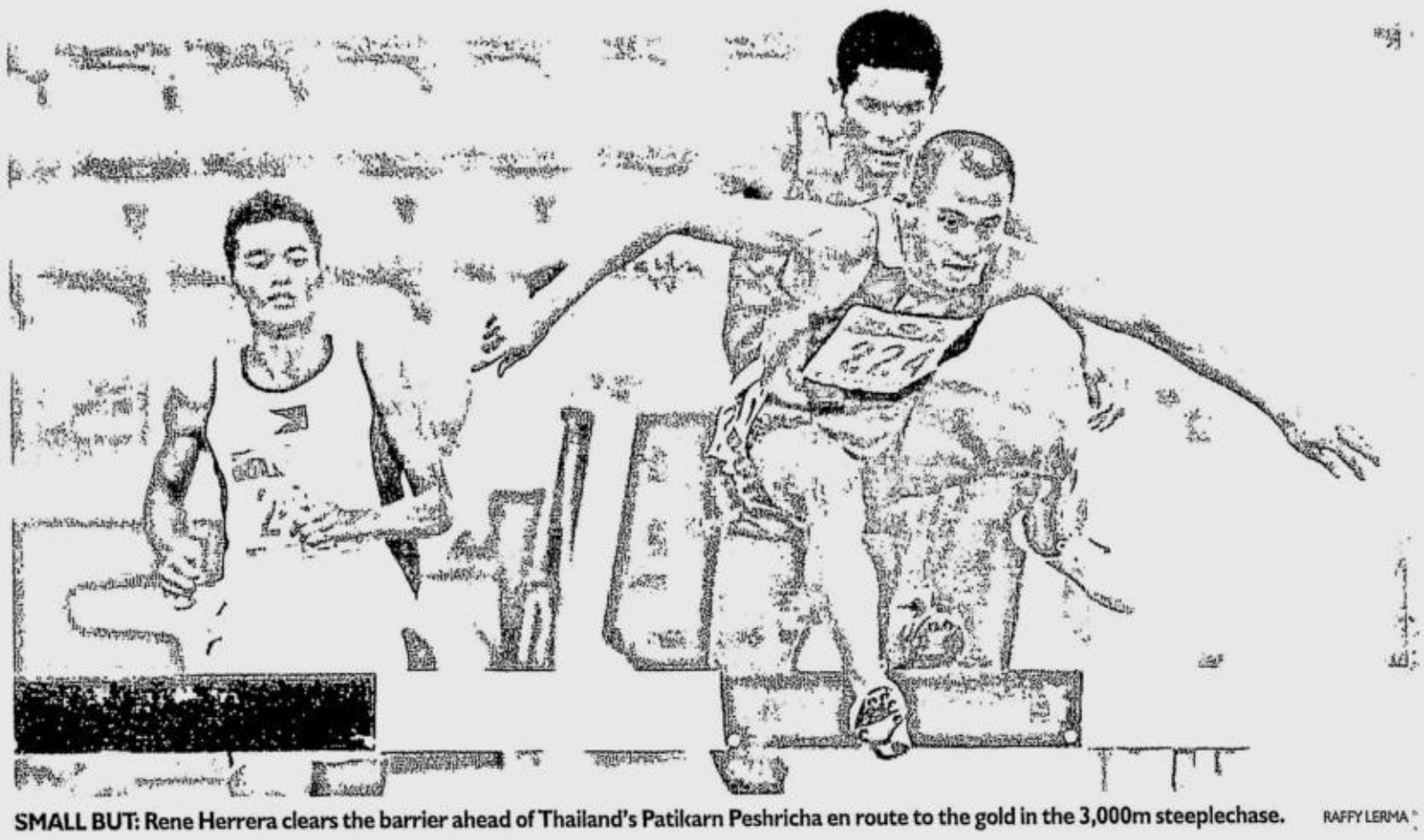
A bronze came from the 4x400 men's relay quartet of Junrey Bano, Julius Nerras, Rodrigo Tanjuan and Ernie Candelario, who clocked 3:08.53 to finish behind Malaysia (3:07.95) and Thailand (3:07.95).

Those three triumphs slightly dulled the pain of the Filipinos who came out of the first day of skirmishes empty-handed on Friday. The squad managed just two silver and three bronze medals in the nine finals disputed.

"We're still on target (for 10 golds)," athletics chief Go Teng Kok said. "But we need to win the marathons tomorrow (Sunday) if we want to stay that way."

Eduardo Buenavista and Roy Vence, as well as Christabel Martes and Jho-ann Banayag in the women's race will carry the fight for the Philippines in the strength-sapping event.

All told, the Philippines now has a 3-3-7 gold-medal-silver count in athletics.



SMALL BUT: Rene Herrera clears the barrier ahead of Thailand's Patikarn Peshricha en route to the gold in the 3,000m steeplechase. RAFFY LERMA

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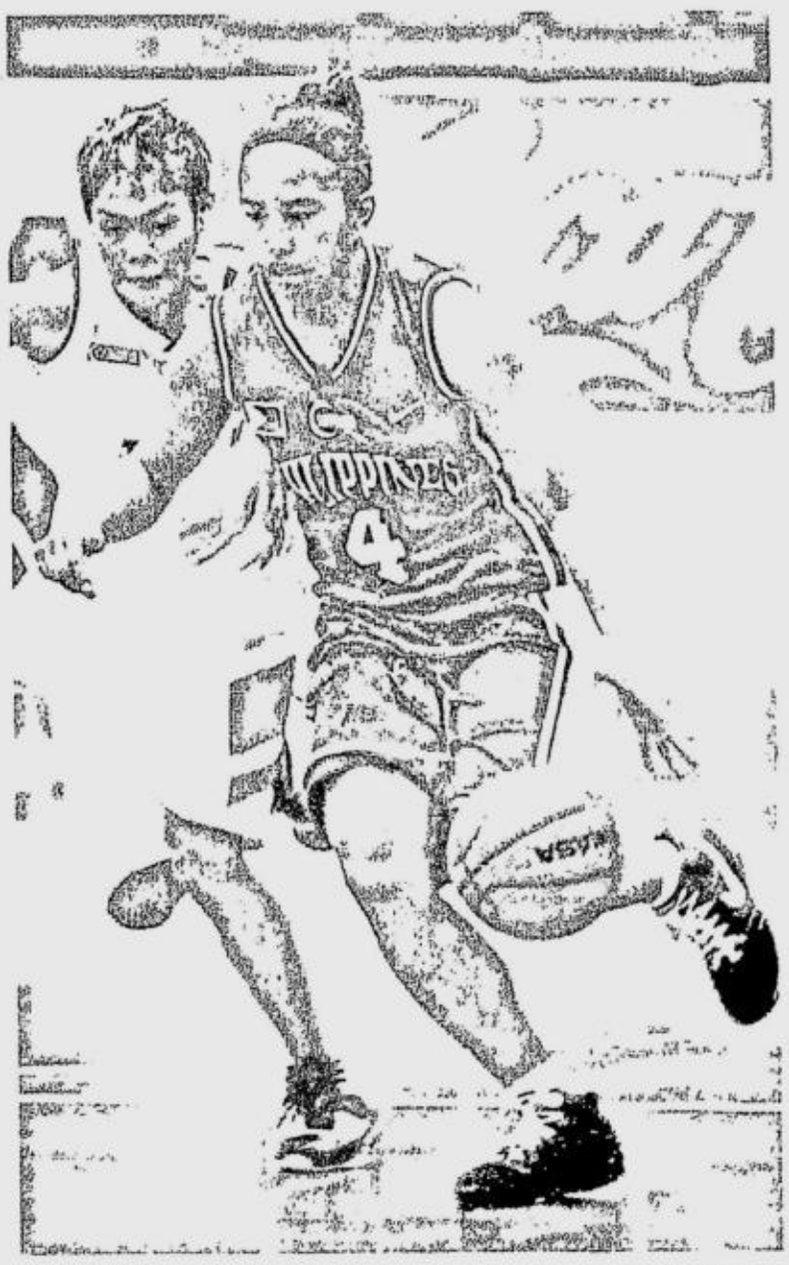

THE PHILIPPINES' Melissa Jacob drives past Singaporean star Zhou Lei in yesterday's match at the Keelapirom Stadium in Nakhon Ratchasima. The Filipinos prevailed, 67-55. RAFFY LERMA

Fencers strike twice; epee ladies finish 1-2

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—THE PHILIPpines' first 1-2 finish in any event in the 24th Southeast Asian Games came from fencers Michelle Bruzola and Harlene Orendain, who contested the epee gold at the Sunaranee University of Technology hall here.

The fourth-seeded Bruzola eventually won the event after a 15-12 decision of Orendain, the second-ranked campaigner who also drew an opening-round bye but needed to scrape past Vietnam's Thi Lan Tran, 15-10, in the semifinals to earn a shot at her teammate.

It was the first sport which the Philippines truly dominated two days after the formal opening of the Games on Thursday.

Fencing actually contributed two gold medals to the country's total of 11 for the day after Emerson Segui ruled the foil division.

The third-ranked Segui's victory came in the closest manner possible, 15-14, over home bet and top seed Nontapat Panchan in the only match where he was really tested after he had dropped just 13 points in his first two.

Panchan advanced after taking out Chong Guo Eddie, 15-6 and then Zairul Zaimi Mohd Arzad of Malaysia, 15-10.

It was actually an all-Filipino match in the Final 4 of the lower half of the draw, with Segui winning out over Rolando Canlas Jr., 15-5.

Van Ahn Tran, a Vietnamese, stood in the way of Segui in the quarterfinals. But the Filipino eliminated him, 15-8, which came just after Canlas beat Jie Wu of Singapore, 15-11.

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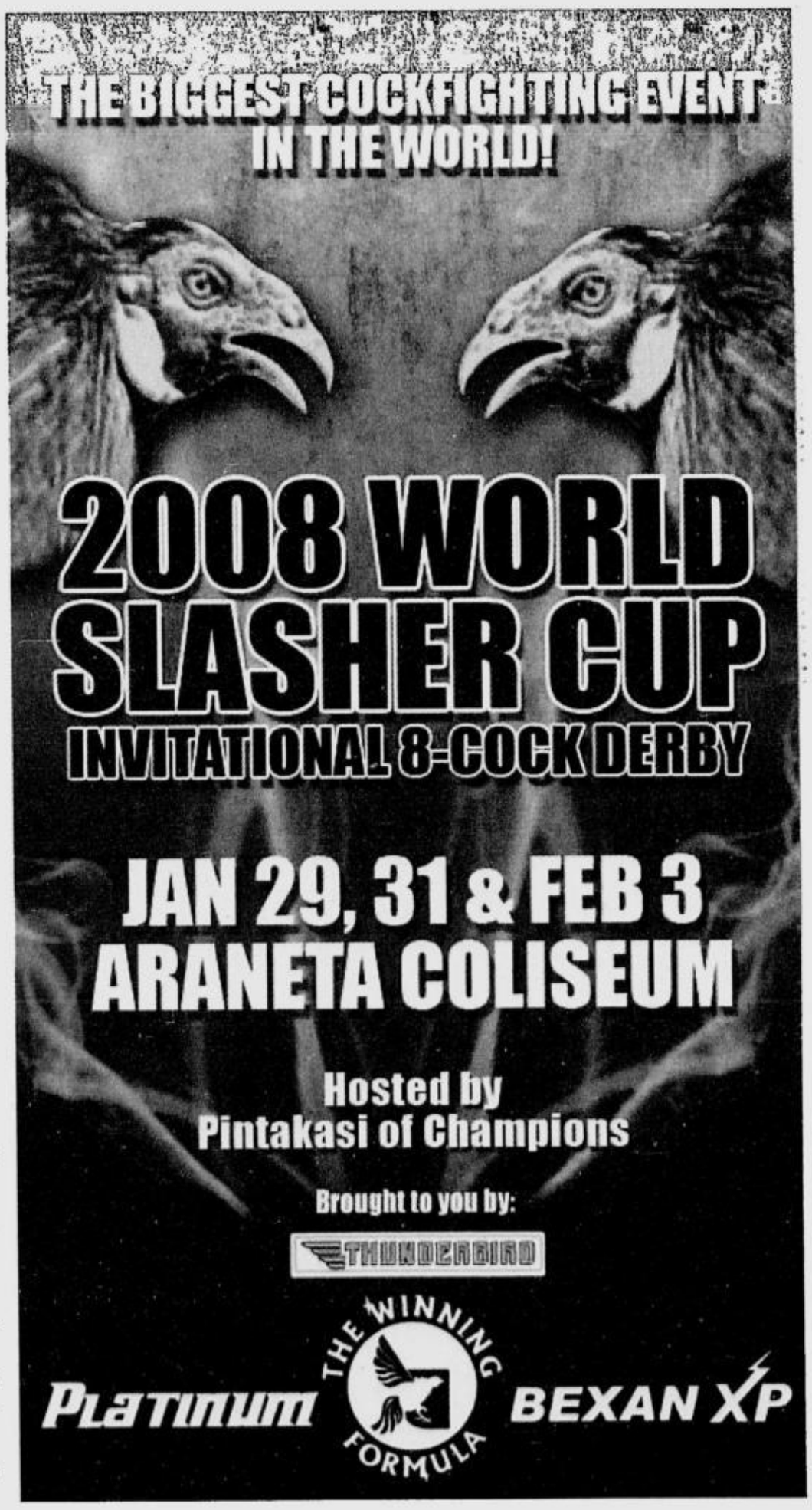
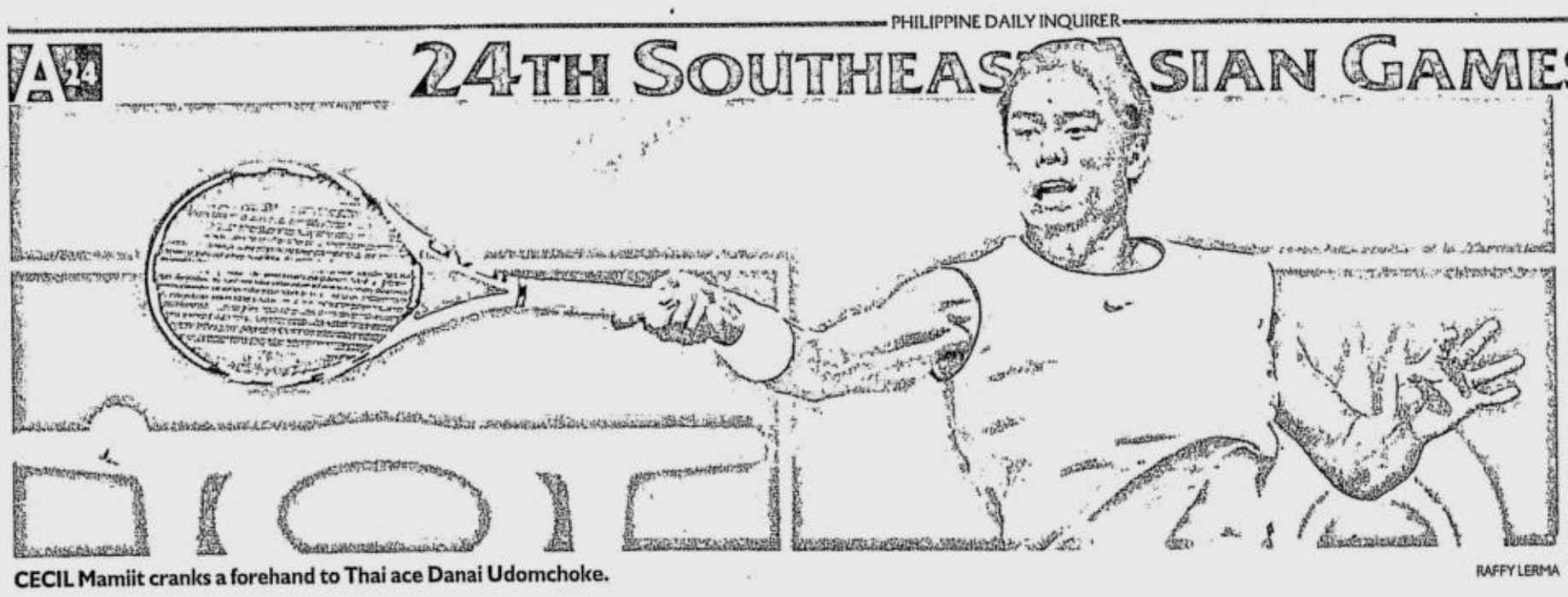
SEA GAMES Medal Tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B				
Thailand	43	51	26	Indonesia	7	9	11
Vietnam	23	10	26	Myanmar	2	7	6
Singapore	16	13	11	Laos	2	0	1
Philippines	14	13	23	Cambodia	0	0	4
Malaysia	7	9	21	Brunei	0	0	0
				Timor Leste	0	0	0

Yesterday's SEAG medalists

GOLD
1. Rene Herrera, Athletics (Men's 3000m Steeplechase)
2. Arniel Ferrera, Athletics (Men's Hammer Throw)
3. Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and Jose Rodriguez, Rowing (Men's Double Sculls)
4. Ryan Mendoza, Triathlon (Men's Duathlon)
5. Marestella Torres, Athletics (Women's Long Jump)
6. Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete, Dancesport (Standard Quickstep)
7. Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete, Dancesport, (Standard Tango)
8. Michelle Bruzola, Fencing (Women's Individual Epee)
9. Emerson Segui, Fencing (Men's Individual Foil)
10. Antonio Gabica and Marlon Manalo, Billiards and Snooker (Men's 9-Ball Doubles)
11. Miguel Molina, Swimming (Men's 200m IM)





CECIL Mamiit cranks a forehand to Thai ace Danai Udomchoke. RAFFY LERMA

Mamiit tumbles as RP netters take a beating

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—THE PHILippine men's tennis team just took a twin beating.

Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino encountered more than they could handle in the deciding doubles, bowing to the Ratiwatana twins Sonchai and Sonchat, 4-6, 2-6, as Thailand won the semifinal matchup, 2-1, at the 24th Southeast Asian Games here.

The 32-year-old Taino plastered Weerapat Doakmaiklee, 6-1, 6-4, in just over an hour in the opening singles to set up Mamiit for a possible RP victory opposite Udomchoke in the other singles.

But the popular Mamiit bungled it all in a 4-6, 4-6 defeat to Udomchoke, who reaped the first fruits of his hard preparation against the Filipino No. 1.

In the deciding doubles, Mamiit and Taino just couldn't match the teamwork of the Ratiwatana twins and lost for the first time this year.

The third-seeded Mamiit-Taino played in only one doubles event the entire season, winning the Valencia Challenger, a US Challenger pro tournament in California last summer.

Spotty calls, none more glaring than a Sonchat forehand that went wide but was ruled in, allowed the Thais to break Taino for a crucial 2-0 lead in the second set of the match played at His Majesty the King's 80th Birth Anniversary's hard courts.

"I played really bad, especially in the second set where I missed a lot of easy shots," said Taino, who won the mixed doubles gold with Riza Angela Zalameda in the 2005 Manila Games.

Taino's win proved to be the last RP win for the day as the women's team of Denise Dy, Czarina Mae Arevalo and Diane Matias fell to the Indonesians.

Matias absorbed a 3-6, 0-6 thumping at the hands of veteran Romana Tedjakusama, and the second-ranked Indonesians clinched the tie with Sandy Gumulya's defeat of Arevalo, 6-3, 6-3.

Athletes 'pocket money' still intact after all

RP ladies rip S'pore, set 'title tiff' vs Thais

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

NAKHON RACHATSIMA—THEY MAY LOSE the overall championship here but there's no way they're going to lose their old lump sum allowance of $300.

Quick to address an issue that is said to be diverting the focus of Filipino athletes in the 24th Southeast Asian Games here, the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday announced that they would be handing out the same "pocket money" given to the national athletes in the last two Games.

GARCIA

PSC commissioner Richie Garcia said the agency's chief accountant, Merle Ibay, was set to arrive Saturday afternoon with about $45,000 needed to complete the amount already given to the athletes.

He said Philippine Olympic Committee vice president Monico Puentevella, who was set to arrive here Saturday, called him up earlier in the day to announce that President Macapagal-Arroyo had authorized the release of funds to cover the allowance of athletes.

Garcia said the President has already informed PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez about the new development.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. had previously assured athletes that they are ready to solve their problem.

Meanwhile, Cojuangco and other top POC officials joined a select group from the SEAG Federation who were granted an audience with King Bhumibol Adulyadej yesterday.

GAMES SUNDAY (*Keelapirom Stadium*)
3 p.m.—Philippines vs Indonesia (Men)
5 p.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (Women)

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—THE Philippine women's cage team went full steam ahead for three quarters Saturday and primed itself up for a shot at a first-ever gold medal in the Southeast Asian Games.

Filipino-American Melissa Jacob led a searing charge by the Filipinas in the first half, where they broke the game open before cruising in the final period to win impressively over Singapore, 67-55, at the Keelapirom Stadium here.

And that makes the 5 p.m. (6 p.m. Manila time) Sunday showdown with dangerous and defending champion Thailand a winner-take-all match even if both teams would still be left with one more game in the elimination round.

The Filipinas, who held Singapore to just nine third quarter points, will still clash with Malaysia on Wednesday while the Thais, who debut Tuesday against Singapore, are also scheduled to battle the Malaysians on Thursday.

"If we win tomorrow (Sunday), it would be all over," beaming head coach Fritz Gaston said. "For all intents and purposes, that would be the championship match. And it won't be easy."

Jacob, a 5-foot-10 guard who hails from Pangasinan, scored the bulk of her team-high 19 points in the first. She also finished with seven rebounds.

Easy was the way the Filipinos disposed of the Singaporeans as they opened up a 24-13 lead after the first before taking a 53-38 bubble into the fourth quarter as Gaston still tried to keep as many of his cards close to his chest.

The feared RP men's squad, meanwhile, also play a crucial match Sunday, locking horns with Indonesia at 5 p.m. in what coaching staff described was their version of the title match.

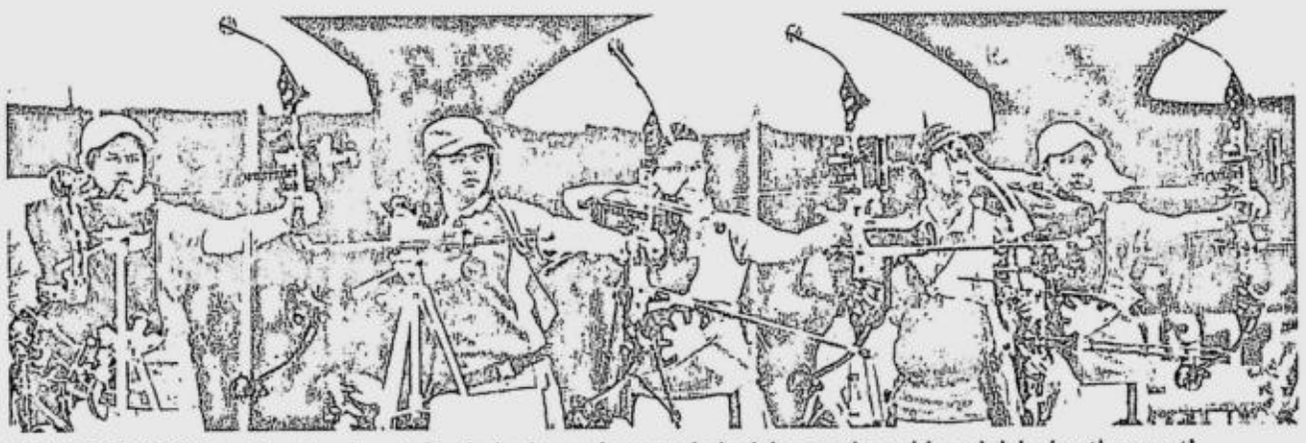
The team a light workout Saturday and was coming off a 136-82 shellacking of Cambodia the night before.

The scores:

PHILIPPINES 67—Jacob 19, Grajales 11, Brick 9, Valencia 8, Tioseco 6, Narcisa 5, Tolentino 3, Vega 2, Adriano 2, Issa 2, Jose 0, Matsuno 0.

SINGAPORE 55—Zhou 19, Poon 12, Koh 8, Toh 6, Lin 5, Ho 3, W. Ang 2, J. Ang 0, Tan 0.

Quarters: 24-13, 35-29, 53-38, 67-55



THE COUNTRY'S national archers take their aim as they set their sights on the gold medal during the sport's compound event at His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday Anniversary Stadium in Nakhon Ratchasima. RAFFY LERMA

Fernando has consent of the Royal and Ancient

By Musong R. Castillo

BONANZA RANCH, KHAOYAI, THAIland—All Anthony Fernando needs to do is deliver.

All doubts as to the true status of the reigning Philippine Amateur champ has been put to rest after non-playing skipper Caloy Coscoluella sought and obtained the approval of no less than the Royal and Ancient in Scotland.

That cleared the way for Fernando's stint in the 24th Southeast Asian Games golf tournament that tees off Monday.

"I have all the paperwork with me, including their (R&A) replies to various e-mails," Coscoluella said during a break in the Filipinos' practice round at the Bonanza Golf and Country Club here.

Fernando was suspended by the National Golf Association of the Philippines last month after a photograph showing him posing next to a brand of golf clubs appeared in the INQUIRER Golf Monthly magazine.

The golf club distributor wrote the NGAP, where Coscoluella is the director on rules, appealing the body's decision.

"All that Anthony needs to do now is play his best," said Coscoluella.

Fernando was the last-minute addition to the men's team, replacing the pro-bound Jay Bayron, who will try his luck in the lucrative Asian Tour this week.

Mark Fernando and Jonel Ababa, products of the ground-breaking National Caddies' Open, and Ferdinand Aunzo are the other members of the RP squad that will defend the team gold medal.

Sleepless over SEA Games

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MIKEE ROMEro, patron of the Philippine men's basketball team, has been sleepless the past few days.

Mikee had just been discharged from the St. Luke's Hospital after undergoing a delicate eye operation when he learned through an overseas phone call from Thailand that the schedule of games had been changed.

"Why did they alter the schedules at the last minute? I smell something fishy here. Looks like the organizers are up to something," Mikee said, sounding very upset.

"What if we lose?"

* * *

"No, we won't," I tried to assure him, as I attempted to change the subject.

But his mind was focused only on one thing: the SEA Games. He wasn't listening to anything else.

"Can they do that? Can they just change schedules a day before the first game? Imagine, the game against Malaysia was moved From Dec. ll to Dec. 12, which is so close to the game against Thailand on the 13th. They also scheduled the game against Malaysia so late and the one against Thailand so early after lunch, our players won't even have time to rest. These two games are less than 24 hours apart," Mikee said, sounding so helpless.

We hung up past midnight. Mikee had to call the coaching staff in Ratchasima.

***

Early the next morning, I got a text message from Mikee, usually a late riser.

"(BAP-SBP executive director) Pato Gregorio has written a formal letter to the organizers demanding an explanation for the sudden change in schedule," the message read.

Pato was concerned both for the men and women's team, whose schedule was also changed in what was perceived by many as a move to give the edge to the host country.

"The Thais will do anything to win the basketball gold. I hope our teams can maintain their composure despite these underhanded tactics," Mikee said.

Mikee was wearing dark glasses when he showed up at the Centennial airport yesterday morning for his 10:30 flight to Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

He said the shades were not actually necessary to protect his newly-operated eye from injury. They're to hide the dark circles under his eyes.

* * *

Solar must have paid a fortune to acquire the television rights to the 2008 World Olympics in Beijing, China.

While marketing head Jude Turcuato admits they did, he demurs from revealing even a ballpark figure of the amount they paid.

"Yes the cost is huge," he said. 'Just to give you an idea, it's the biggest amount we spent so far for an event that will last for only two weeks," Jude said over pizza and beer at Gourdo's at The Fort.

Jude has started marketing the event as early as now, when most advertisers are in a holiday mood and not inclined to do business.

* * *

Is it true that an assistant coach in the PBA is being eyed for the head coaching post by a PBA ballclub?

If ever, this will not be the first time this guy will coach a PBA team. In fact, he has won a PBA title some years back.

Club Marinduque jots down fourth straight Fil-Am sweep

By Jong Arcano
Inquirer Golf editor

BAGUIO—JAY BAYRON JUST HAD TO win this one for Club Marinduque and the Calatagan boys.

The 28-year-old Bayron ended his amateur career by sharing a memorable victory with a brother and with peers who look up to him as Club Marinduque pulled off an amazing fourth consecutive double championship in the Fil-Am wars here.

Bayron's closing four-under-par 40 points on six birdies at Camp John Hay was all Club Marinduque needed to seal the deal in the Fil division battle, which was also played at the Baguio Country Club.

His teammates in the Am division left their Manila Southwoods rivals eating dust with a whopping 47-point victory—believed to be one of the biggest winning margins in the 58-year history of the championships.

BAYRON: Once more with the boys before turning pro CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/BONG MERCADO

Mario Labajo delivered 38 and both Paul Echavez and Jay's elder brother Rufino made 32s for Club Marinduque's 144 output for the day, good enough to fend off an undermanned Manila Southwoods, which played with only four men in the last two days.

Already up by 14 at the start of the final round, Marinduque wound up with a 557 total, 12 up on Manila Southwoods which drew inspired performances from Tonton Asistio (40), Mike Bibat (39) and Gene Bondoc (35) but didn't get the game expected from Korean recruit Chun Il-jin who managed a 32.

Bayron also claimed the individual crown for the third time in the last four years, a perfect sendoff for him as he moves to the pro ranks. He will vie in the Asian Tour qualifying in Kota Kinabalu next week.

"I almost didn't make it here, I just wanted to be with the team one last time before I turn pro," said Bayron in Filipino.

He played the last two days without a 6-iron which he broke while hitting out of a stymie.

Jerson Balasabas again emerged the top scorer for the Marinduque Am team with his 36. Because of his second-round disqualification for a scorecard which wasn't signed by his marker, he yielded the individual title to veteran Dave Hernandez.

No one was happier than Club Marinduque patron Felix Cortez, who felt that the team was good up to the last man, the alternates included.

"We had a very talented team that knew how to fight," Cortez said. "They were really ready for this battle. The sweep of the team and individual awards is proof to the talent of the boys."

Complete results will be posted at pilipinasgolf.com.

Thais firm up SEAG overall lead

KORAT, THAILAND—THAILAND ARE looking to build on their powerful start in the 24th Southeast Asian Games athletics Saturday as they continue their bid to top the medals table.

Following six golds out of nine in athleticss and two in the pool Friday, the host nation will be chasing more success on the second day of the athletics and swimming competitions.

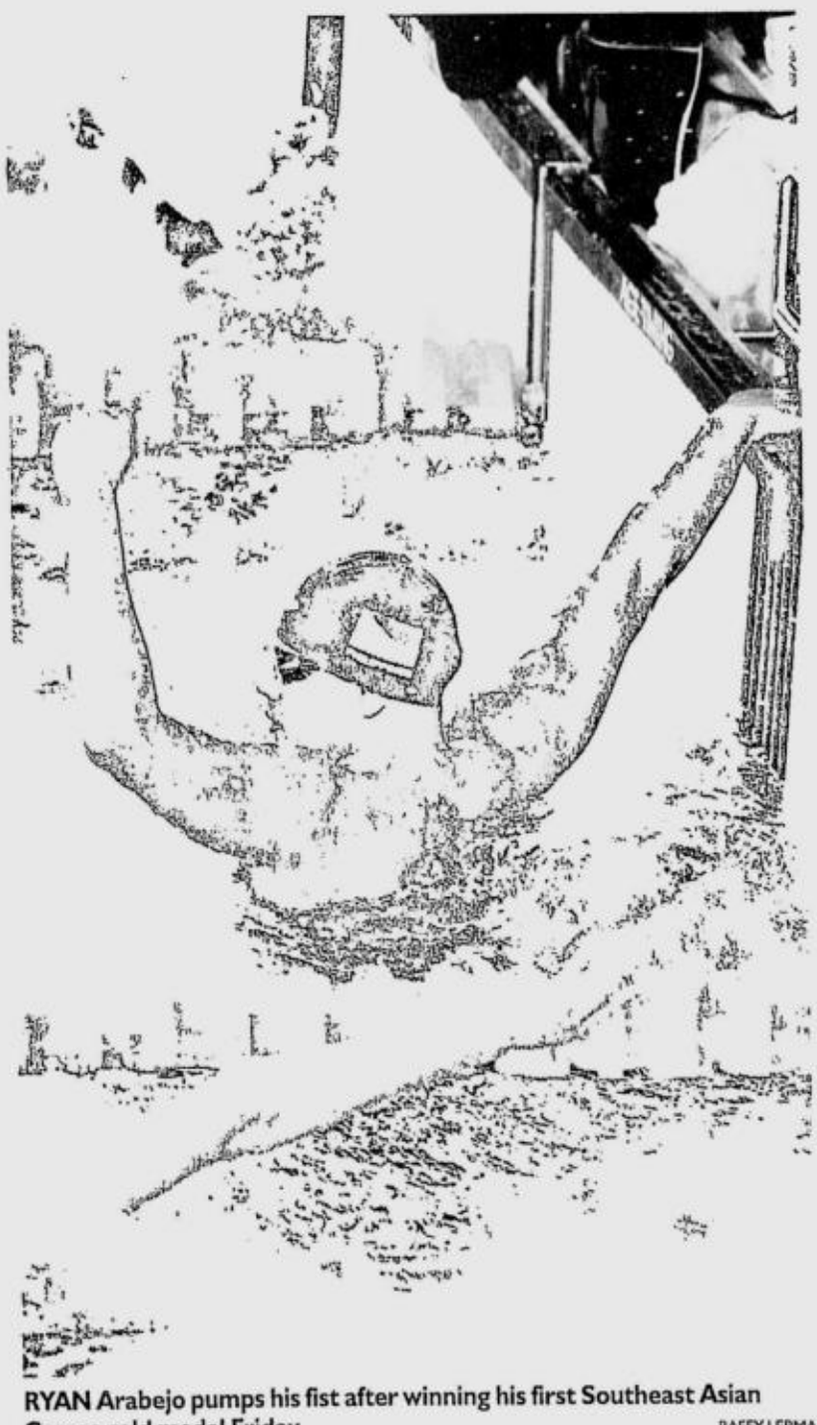
As well as their continuing success in the individual disciplines, Thailand, currently on 38 golds compared with second-placed Vietnam's 15, remain on course to defend the coveted under-23 football title after beating Indonesia 2-1 Friday, sending them crashing out.

Thailand, chasing their eighth consecutive football crown, qualified from group A with a perfect record of nine points from three fixtures along with unfancied Myanmar, who hammered Cambodia 6-2 Friday to progress on goal difference at Indonesia's expense.

Group B will be completed Saturday. Laos play Vietnam and Malaysia and Singapore clash, with all four teams capable of reaching the semi-finals, to be held on Tuesday.

Bidding for 150 golds, Thailand dominated the first day of track and field action Friday, winning the men's shot put and triple jump, 400m hurdles and 5000m. Thai women also won the 400m hurdles and the javelin.

But they missed out on the 100m, arguably the most prestigious event. *AFP*



RYAN Arabejo pumps his fist after winning his first Southeast Asian Games gold medal Friday. RAFFY LERMA

4 more Pinoy boxers barge into s'finals

By Recah Trinidad

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—FOUR MORE Filipino fighters barged into the semifinals on the second day of action Saturday but the savage stoppage suffered by welterweight Wilfredo Lopez did not augur well for the Philippines in its expected head-to-head final slug-out with host Thailand for the boxing championship.

The lanky Lopez, riding on a blazing start, went a point up and had the seasoned Non Boonjamnong of Thailand on the defensive, but got caught with a thunderclap right to the chin when he foolishly dropped his guard close to the end of the first round.

Lopez fell frozen like a log and the referee jumped in frantically to signal a stop to the most alarming stoppage in the 24th Southeast Asian Games thus far.

Light flyweight Alice Kate Aparri beat Chay Mu Chay of Myanmar, 9-3, in the day's opening fight at the Mueangpug Municipal Gymnasoium where the Philippines had sent in three boxers into the semifinals Friday.

Light flyweight Albert Pabila outclassed Myanmar's Aung Kyaw Swar, 19-15, for a follow-up RP win, before bantamweight Junel Cantancio beat Than Htaik also of Myanmar, 29-16, and burly Joegin Ladon punished Ratha Syay of Cambodia, 22-5, as RP sizzled with a 4-1 card in yesterday's program.

Remaning quarterfinal bouts in heavier divisions will be completed today before the start of the semifinals Monday but there's a clear path leading to an inevitable showdown between perennial rivals Philippines and Thailand for the boxing title in this biennial meet.

While Thailand fielded its premier fighters, the RP squad opted to pull out its top bets,including Olympic qualifer Harry Tañamor.

The Filipinos have lost only a couple of bouts after two days for a total of seven semfinalists. But the Thais have yet to drop a single bout in an all-out bid to regain the boxing supremacy which they lost to the Filipinos in Bacolod City during the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Filipino medalists (As of Dec. 8, 2007)

GOLD

1. Joey Barba, Mountain Bike (Men's Downhill)
2. Ryan Arabejo, Swimming (Men's 200m Backstroke)
3. Miguel Molina, Swimming (Men's 400m Individual Medley)
4. Rene Herrera, Athletics (Men's 3000m Steeplechase)
5. Arniel Ferrera, Athletics (Men's Hammer Throw)
6. Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and Jose Rodriguez, Rowing (Men's Double Sculls)
7. Ryan Mendoza, Triathlon (Men's Duathlon)
8. Marestella Torres, Athletics (Women's Long Jump)
9. Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete, Dance Sport (Standard Quickstep)
10. Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete, Dance Sport, (Standard Tango)
11. Michelle Bruzola, Fencing (Women's Individual Epee)
12. Emerson Segui, Fencing (Men's Individual Foil)
13. Antonio Gabica and Marlon Manalo, Billiards and Snooker (Men's 9-Ball Doubles)
14. Miguel Molina, Swimming (Men's 200m Individual Medley)

SILVER

1. Eric Ang, Carag Carlos and Jethro Dionisio, Shooting (Men's Trap Team)
2. Jaqueline De Guzman, Shooting (Women's Skeet)
3. Paul Brian Rosario, Patricio Bernardo and Gabriel Tong, Shooting (Men's Skeet Team)
4. Mary Grace Milgar, Athletics (Women's 400m Hurdles)
5. Julius Sermona, Athletics (Men's 500m)
6. Rosie Villarito, Athletics (Women's Javelin Throw)
7. Eusebio Quinones, Mountain Bike (Men's Cross Country)
8. Alvin Amposta and Nestor Cordova, Rowing (Men's Lightweight Double Sculls)
9. Marcus Valda, Wrestling (Men's Freestyle 84kg)
10. Midel Dique, Athletics (Men's 800m)
11. Harlene Orendain, Fencing (Women's Individual Epee)
12. Gemma Silverio, Wrestling (Women's Freestyle 59kg)
13. Alven Aragon, Wrestling (Men's Freestyle 74kg)

BRONZE

1. Emerito Concepcion, Shooting (Men's 10m Air Rifle)
2. Men's Hoop, Sepak Takraw
3. Women's Hoop, Sepak Takraw
4. Eliezer Sunang, Athletics (Men's Shot Put)
5. Jobert Delicano, Athletics (Men's Triple Jump)
6. Nino Surban, Mountain Bike (Men's Cross Country)
7. Maritess Bitbit, Mountain Bike (Women's Cross Country)
8. Maribel Jambora, Wrestling (Women's Freestyle 48kg)
9. Ma. Cristina Vergara, Wrestling (Women's Freestyle 51kg)
10. Clotheide Nillas and Johnalyn Pedrita, Rowing (Women's Lightweight Double Sculls)
11. Frederick Taino and Cecil Mamiit, Tennis (Men's Team)
12. Denise Dy and Diane Matias, Tennis (Women's Team)
13. August Benedicto, Triathlon (Men's Duathlon)
14. Analiza Dysangco, Triathlon (Women's Duathlon)
15. Emmanuel Reyes and Maira Rosete, Dance Sport (Standard Waltz)
16. Reynato Rener Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio, Dance Sport (Latin American Cha Cha Cha)
17. Rolando Canlas Jr., Fencing (Men's Individual Foil)
18. Joanna Franquelli, Fencing (Women's Individual Sabre)
19. Arnold Villarube, Athletics (Men's Decathlon)
20. Junrey Bano, Julius Felicisimo Nierras Jr., Rodrigo Tanuan Jr. and Ernie Candelario, Athletics (Men's 4x400 Relay)
21. Kendrick Uy, Swimming (Men's 100m Freestyle)
22. Jaclyn Pangilinan, Swimming (Women's 100m Breaststroke)
23. Nicole Santiago, Jaclyn Pangilinan, Georgina Gandionco and Erica Totten, Swimming (Women's 4x100m Freestyle Relay)

Molina keeps RP afloat with 2nd gold

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—THERE WAS NO THREAT whatsoever this time as swimming star Miguel Molina churned his way to a second gold Saturday to become the winningest Filipino athlete in the 24th Southeast Asian Games here.

After winning by just a touch in the 400 IM Friday, the 23-year-old US-based Molina returned to literally sink his rivals in the sport where has already meet the Olympic qualifying standard.

This time, the International Relations graduate of University of California-Berkeley led all the way, opening up a three-second lead over Thailand's Matjiur Radomyos after the breakstroke leg then pouring it on to win in 2 minutes 05.50 seconds.

Matjiur was second in 2:09.12, which barely beat the 2:09.25 of Indonesian Muhamad Nasution, who gave Molina a brief scare before losing the 400 IM gold.

Counting Ryan Arabejo's victory in the men's 200 backstroke also Friday, the Filipinos joined Singapore and Malaysia in a three-way tie for supremacy in the sport with three golds each.

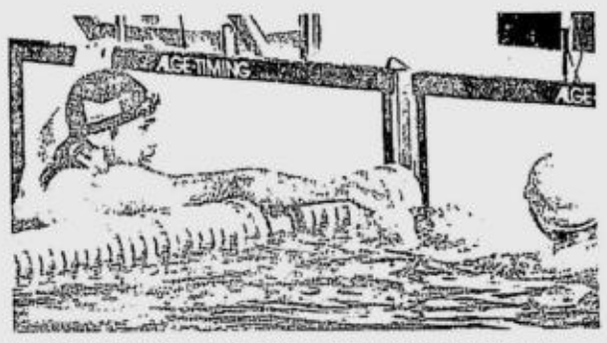
The Singaporeans, who ran away with overall honors in 2005 with 14 golds, six from the great Joscelyn Yeo, won twice Saturday—the men's 100 freestyle and the women's 100 breaststroke—while the Malaysians took the women's 400 freestyle after matching RP two golden feats Friday.

Host Thailand, second overall the last time with six golds, has two so far with Vietnam the only other nation with a swim victory.

Molina won his third gold two years in the 200 breaststroke to boost the country's overall collection to four which was good for third in the team standings.

The Filipino female tankers contributed two medals, both bronzes, with Jaclyn Pangilinan placing third in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.57) and the 4 x 100 freestyle relay team (4:01.72).

Another bronze came from Kendrick Uy in the men's 100 freestyle (52.16).



MIGUEL Molina shakes hands with second placer Muhammad Nasution of Indonesia after topping the men's 400m individual medley. RAFFY LERMA

Keglers bomb out in singles; doubles today

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—THE HIGHLY touted Filipino bowlers bombed out in the inaugural singles events at the SF Strike Bowl on Saturday, with all ten entries unable to scoop a medal.

Only Raoul Miranda came close to the podium—flirting with a gold medal finish in the men's singles after rallying with a closing 279 for a six-game series of 1216 that fell 15 pinfalls shy of Malaysian third placer Zul Mazran Zulkifli's 1231 total.

Singaporean Qenn Ng prevailed with a 1250 aggregate, thwarting Malaysian Alex Kien Lian Liew, who pooled a 1237.

The Filipinos fared worse in the distaff side with Marianne Daisy Posadas the highest placed finisher at seventh with a 1176 total. She was 68 behind winner Tannya Roumimper of Indonesia and 25 off third placer Shalin Zulkifli of Malaysia.

Liza Clutario had 1104, Josephine Canare 1084, Liza del Rosario 1024, Holly Angela Josef 993 and Irene Garcia 974.

The other RP men bets were Chester King with a 1174 total, Julius Paul Sy 1104, Tyrone Ongpauco 1056 and Benshir Layoso 1032.

Ongpauco and Layoso were tapped by the Philippine Bowling Congress to take the places of defending men Master's champion Markwin Tee and Jonee Gatchalian.

THE PRETTY beach volley pair of Diane Pascua and Heidi Ilustre acknowledge their supporters after thumping the Malaysian pair of Luk Teng Kee and Isaw Ari Manukharan, 21-11, 21-11. RAFFY LERMA

Espiritu, Bitbit eye redemption

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—MARITES BITBIT and the comebacking Victor Espiritu saddle up their bikes Sunday in the road's individual time trial (ITT) of the 24th Southeast Asian Games hoping to earn a little piece of redemption.

Bitbit, relegated to a bronze medal from the 2005 gold she won in mountain bike's cross-country, competes in the second of her four events in these Games in the women's 30-km ITT starting at 11 a.m. (12 noon in Manila) at the Mittraphap Road.

A silver medalist in the Philippine edition held in Tagaytay City in the ITT, Bitbit vowed to do better after missing out on a possible second gold medal—after Joey Barba in mountain bike's men's downhill—in cycling Saturday.

"I'll give my all because we lost the gold medal in MTB," said Bitbit in Filipino.

Espiritu, who returned to the national team only this year, is eyeing the gold that he missed out in the 2003 Vietnam Games.

Espiritu was the penultimate rider to race the ITT then and registered the best time. But when Vietnamese Mai Chom approached the finish, the electronic timer conked out and when it was operational again, the Vietnamese already had the gold medal winning time.

Manalo-Gabica pocket pool doubles gold

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—A DIFFERENT but still deadly tandem retained the Southeast Asian Games' 9-ball doubles gold for the Philippines in billiards Saturday night after Marlon Manalo and Asiad gold medalist Antonio Gabica thumped Singapore at the Sima Thani Hall here.

Manalo-Gabica broke away from a 2-2 tie in the finals by pouncing on a crucial scratch by Singapore in breaking the fifth rack as the Philippines churned out an 11-6 victory for billiards' first gold.

The victory of Manalo and Gabica was actually a repeat of the feat of Alex Pagulayan and Dennis Orcollo in 2005 in Manila.

Pagulayan, the World Pool champion in 2004 in Taipei, did not join the Philippine team here because of differences with the governing Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines.

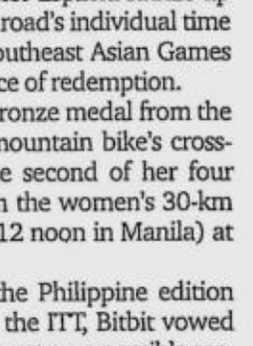
Orcollo, unofficially the best money-game player in, also failed to make the trip because of a viral infection contacted a couple of weeks before the Games.

But Manalo and Gabica more than did a great job subbing for the two, going virtually worry-free the entire time before trouncing the World Pool veteran Ibrahim Bin Amir-led Malaysian squad, 11-6, in the semifinals.

Khen Kwang Chan and Lian Han Toh gave a good account of themselves and looked like they were capable of pulling the rug from under the fancied Filipinos after winning two of the first three racks.

But the Philippines leveled after four and moved ahead to stay after Chan scratched while breaking the fifth frame.

Singapore reached the finals after taking out Vietnam, 11-7. Malaysia later on took the bronze over Vietnam, 11-6.



GABICA

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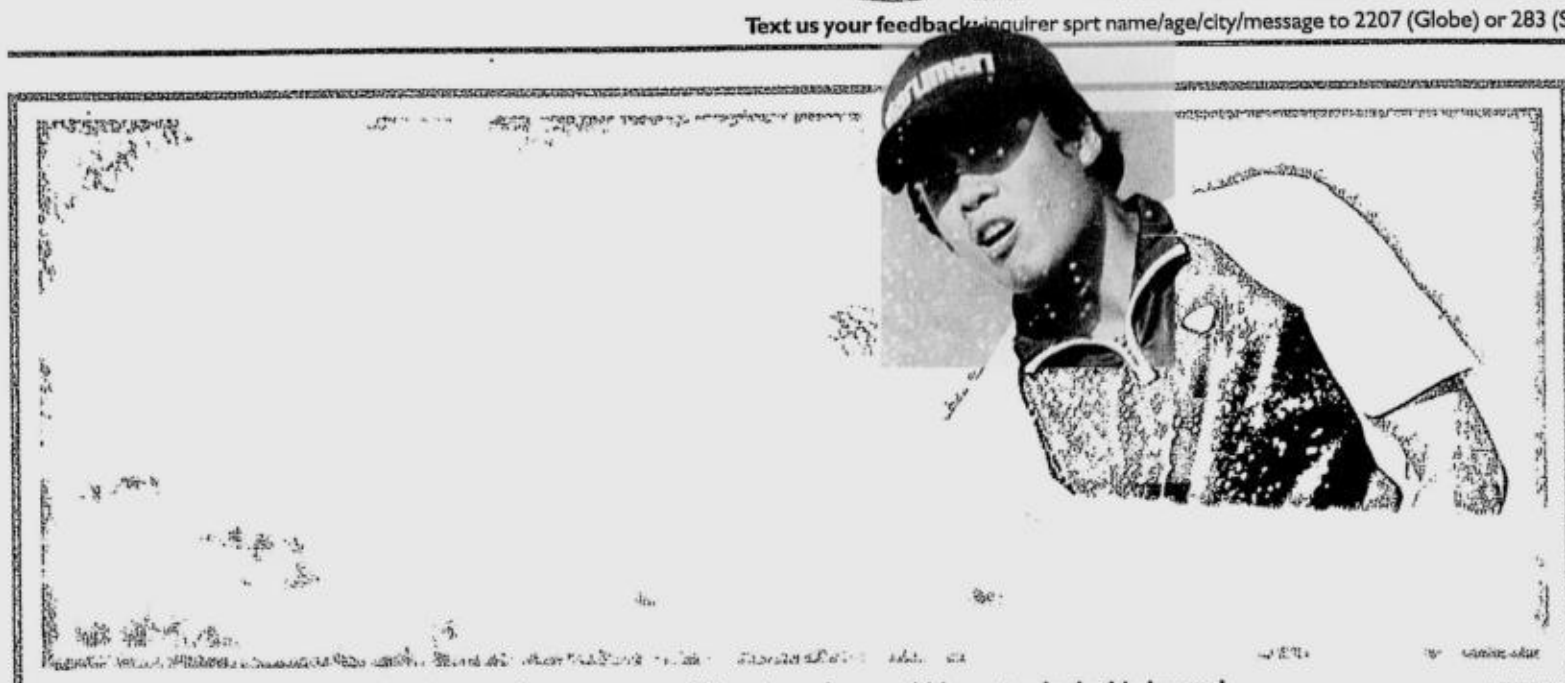


JUVIC Pagunsan blasts out of a bunker on the way to a sparkling six-under-par 66 in yesterday's third round. REUTERS

Juvic pulls away by 4

BANGKOK—FILIPINO RISING STAR JUVIC Pagunsan raced into a four-shot lead at the season-ending Volvo Masters of Asia after a masterful six-under-par 66 on Saturday.

The joint-overnight leader maintained his superb form at Thai Country Club, sinking seven birdies against a lone bogey to pull away from Scotsman Simon Yates, who battled into contention with a 67 in the $750,000 Asian Tour finale.

Pagunsan, last season's Rookie of the Year, put on another breathtaking exhibition of golf, roaring home in 31 with five birdies. Since winning his maiden title at the Pertamina Indonesia President Challenge in October, the 29-year-old's confidence has soared and he is now looking to bag the Volvo Masters of Asia title.

"My confidence is getting stronger and stronger every day. Today I hit really good drives; (I hit them) really, really well. I did not expect to shoot 31 on the back nine as it is really hard," said Pagunsan, who has a three-day total of 15-under-par 201.

Thailand's Prayad Marksaeng kept alive local hopes by climbing to joint third with a 68.

Overnight co-leader Scott Hend of Australia tumbled with a 74 and was tied with Filipino Gerard Rosales, who shot a 71 at 209.

Other Filipinos jockeying for higher positions are Angelo Que,who carded a 72 for 210, Tony Lascuña (70=212), Artemio Murakami (76=219) and Frankie Miñoza (78=221). *Asian Tour News*

Leading third round scores:

201—Juvic Pagunsan (RP) 70-65-66; 205—Simon Yates (SCO) 69-69-67; 206—Prayad Marksaeng (THA) 67-71-68, Mark Brown (NZL) 70-66-70; 208—Chris Rodgers (ENG) 70-68-70; 209—Gerald Rosales (RP) 70-68-71, Scott Hend (AUS) 68-67-74; 210—Thammanoon Srirot (THA) 69-72-69, Thaworn Wiratchant (THA) 71-70-69, Taichiro Kiyota (JPN) 72-68-70, Angelo Que (RP) 70-68-72, Prom Meesawat (THA) 70-67-73

Bulls halt Pistons' 5-game win streak

DETROIT—ANDRES NOCIONI scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half to help the Chicago Bulls snap the Detroit Pistons' five-game winning streak with a 98-91 victory on Friday.

Former Piston Ben Wallace added 10 points, 13 rebounds and had four blocked shots for the Bulls, who grabbed their fourth victory in five games.

Nocioni put the Bulls in front 73-71 with two free throws to start the fourth quarter, then sealed the win with a layup with 44 seconds left in the game that gave Chicago a 97-88 lead.

The San Antonio Spurs retained their unbeaten home record with a 104-98 victory over the Utah Jazz, their 12th win at home this season.

Manu Ginobili scored 37 points for the Spurs, who won their fifth straight game despite playing without the injured Tim Duncan.

The Boston Celtics recorded their 10th successive victory at home with a 112-84 win over the Toronto Raptors.

Kevin Garnett scored 23 points and Paul Pierce 18 as the Celtics improved to 16-2.

Amare Stoudemire scored 27 points while Steve Nash had a season-high 19 assists as the Phoenix Suns won their fifth successive game, 122-107, over the Washington Wizards.

Yao Ming scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the Houston Rockets' 96-89 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Danny Granger had 27 points and Jamaal Tinsley added 20 points and 10 assists as the Indiana Pacers beat the Orlando Magic, 115-109.

Samuel Dalembert's 20 points helped the Philadelphia 76ers to a 101-90 victory over the New York Knicks.

Stephen Jackson had 28 points, Baron Davis 25 and Monta Ellis 21 as the Golden State Warriors rallied to a 120-113 victory over the Miami Heat, who lost their fifth straight. *Reuters*

Mayweather battles Hatton in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS—CHAMPION Floyd Mayweather Jr. tipped the scales right on the 147-pound limit on the eve of his WBC welterweight title fight with Britain's Ricky Hatton.

Challenger Hatton was two pounds lighter at the weigh-in.

Mayweather, who has a 38-0 win-loss record, is widely regarded as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

But Hatton (43-0) believes his high-tempo pressing style is ideally suited to defeat the American on Saturday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. *Reuters*

Real Spicy risks Gold Cup crown

REAL SPICY FACES THE DAUNTING TASK of defending his crown today as he leads six other top local gallopers in the 35th running of the PCSO Presidential Gold Cup race at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

In line to become only the fifth homegrown charger to score a rare "Gold Cup" double, Real Spicy is hard-pressed to come up with an explosive rebound performance following his lackluster showing in the Amb. Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr. Cup two weeks ago.

Unable to match his unblemished 12 for 12 record last year, the five-year-old campaigner owned and bred by businessman-sportsman Herminio "Hermie" Esguerra has yet to win a major stakes race for the year.

Another returning champion—six-year-old Empire King, winner of the 2004 edition of the Gold Cup—is similarly situated, coming off a last-place finish in the recent Marho Breeders' Cup Classic.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Wonder Miss (2), Life Is Delicious (1), Tippletyfertoo (6), Graceful (5)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Smooth Strike (8), Firehouse (2), Sound of the Wind (5), Aim For Gold (7)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Godfather (1), Sir Barbaro (5), Conquistadorsdream (8), Andalei (6), Grand Game (7)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Pound For Pound (3), Thywillbedone (4), Quick Play (1), Formidable Ella (5)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Vivere (3), Bumble Bee (5), Million Dollar (1), Nothing Impossible (2)
Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Gontalon Story (1), Virgin Hill (12), Material Ruler (7), Good Humour (11), Tower Of Strength (3), Spanish Drums (2)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Native Class (6), Real Spicy/Sound Of Silence (7), Mc. Victory (5), Empire King (2)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Latin Music (5), God Is Good (3), Just Joshua (9), Batang Bukid (4), Ride The Lightning (2)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Macho Man (6), Pearl Buck (1), El Terrible (4), Golden Connection (3)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—D As In Dixie (7), Shifty (6), El Cid (9), Refreshing (8), Ravishing Raffy (4), Maragui (11)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Kambro (6), Gung Ho (7), Imperial Manila (1), Ocean Cookie (2), Don Ramon (4)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Copper Dew (2), Great Emma (9), Irene's Fantasy (1), Mercurio (6), Flying Jojie (10)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Remus (10), Chabacana (6), Do Re Mi (8), Coat Of Arms (12), Exceptional Gem (13), Road Runner (3)

SPORTSWATCH

Bonus for Rambulan bets

EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFTS AWAIT HANDLERS and breeders who will compete in San Juan Coliseum's Pamaskong Rambulan 6-cock derby on Dec. 10, 12, 15, 17 and 19.

The SJC management headed by SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda will give one gift per entry, said pit manager Renato Shio.

Entries are due for submission today until 9 p.m. Call 7255369 and 7256563 for details.

The cockfest, with P3 million in prizes at stake, starts tomorrow with the first round of eliminations (3-cock).

Salpukan registry opens

OFFICIAL ENTRY NAMES WITH CORRESPONDing weights must be submitted today at Makati Coliseum in connection with the Pamaskong Salpukan 6-cock derby.

Entries will be accommodated until 9 p.m. and participants may call 8963545 and 8956475 or 4898828 (Joan or Stephanie).

Action starts tomorrow with the 2-cock elimination round.

According to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., entries may be fielded on the following dates: Dec. 10, 12, 17, 19 and 2.

Alcantara gains finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE'S NO STOPPING FILIPINO TOP seed Francis Casey Alcantara from nailing what slipped from his grip last week.

After losing the title in week 1, Alcantara crashed into the boys' singles finals with an emphatic 6-2, 6-1 victory over compatriot and third seed Pablo Olivarez II yesterday in the Phinma ITF junior tennis tournament 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The 16-year-old Alcantara, who embodies the future of RP tennis after a string of victories abroad, hopes to realize his dream of winning an ITF title here when he takes on fifth seed Australian James Duckworth at 9 a.m. today.

Duckworth, who is Alcantara's doubles partner, disposed of Filipino second seed Ralph Kevin Barte, 7-5, 6-0, to make the finals.

Russian Artem Ilyushin beat Alcantara in the finals of Week 1.

Alcantara and Duckworth are to dispute the doubles title also today against Australian pair Sean White and Benjamin Wagland.

Loretizo gets PSC post

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOURNALIST ERIC LORETIZO HAS BEEN named the new commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission, replacing Leon Montemayor, PSC chair Butch Ramirez confirmed yesterday.

Loretizo, who worked for the Bacolod Southeast Asian Games two years ago, is part of the PSC secretariat that is now in Nakhon Rathasima for the Thailand SEA Games.

"It has not sunk in yet," said Loretizo, who was informed of the news only yesterday.

Loretizo was sports editor of the Visayan Daily Star based in Bacolod City and also worked as secretary general of the BASOC when the SEAG was held there in 2005.

He also handled the media affairs of Rep. Monico Puentevella, who is the chief of mission of the RP delegation in the SEAG.

Ring of Fire kicks off

THE RING OF FIRE: WORLD Team Challenge kicks off today with mixed martial arts champions Ken Shamrock, Royce Gracie, Josh Barnett and Gokor Chivichyan pitting their wards in the colossal event at the Araneta Coliseum.

Two Filipino fighters, Lino "The Terminator" Tagacay of the Red Corner Gym and Salvador "Badong" Domasian of the Elorde Mixed Martial Arts Team spice up the under cards of the event organized by Fearless Fighting Productions and Platinum Productions.

Evan Dunham, Kyacey Uscola, Mike Whitehead, Ricco Rodriguez and Tonya Evinger of Team Shamrock will go up against Team Gracie's Cleber Luciano, Jorge Patino, Daniel Serafian, John Marsch and Kathrine Andal.

Fighting for the other finals berth are Team Barnett's Koji Oishi, Yuki Kondo, Renato Sobral, Jeff Monson and Ginele Marquez versus Team Gokor's Karen Darabdeyan, August Wallen, Rodney Faverus, Hakim Gouram and Amanda Buckner.

Tagacay, the Universal Reality Combat Championships titlist with a 5-2-0 win-loss-draw record, will clash against Justine "Spike 22 Cure Bread" Cruz of Guam. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

URCC XI: Pinoy bets shine

RORDIGUEZ clips Jabbari and (right) has the Iranian's blood on his hands celebrating the victory.

ACTION WAS FAST AND FURIOUS in the recent URCC XI as none of the 11 fights under the "Redemption" card went past the first round at One Esplanade near SM Mall of Asia.

Homegrown talents Fritz Rodriguez and Caloy Baduria showed their mettle by crushing Seyed Jabbari of Iran and Frank Camacho of Saipan, respectively.

Rodriguez, a product of Brent and St. Benilde, and owner of a mixed martial arts gym in San Juan, turned Jabbari's face into a bloody mask, his powerful knees breaking the Iranian's nose in their light-heavyweight bout.

"The referee stopped it in the first round (5:30) because of too much blood," said Rodriguez, who raised his record to 3-1, his only loss dealt by Camacho in Manila last year.

Baduria's super-fight duel with Camacho ended in TKO in the 2:27 mark of the first round. It was vengeance on behalf of Rodriguez, known in the circle as "The Mandrill."

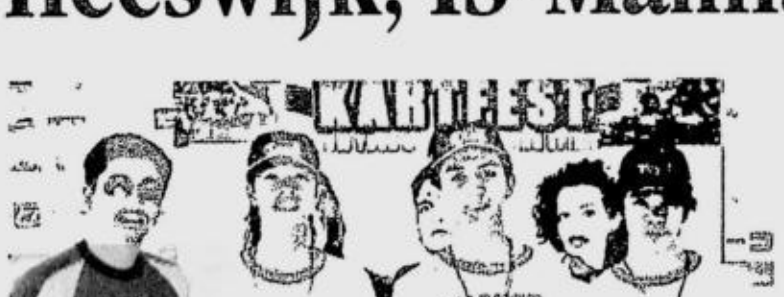
Rodriguez trains under Brazilian jiu-jitsu expert and URCC brain Alvin Aguilar, SEA Games champion wrestler Marcus Valda, muay practitioner Jaime Sin and powerlifting world champ Richie Rosales.

Rodriguez hones his boxing skills at the Elorde Gym, and hopes to fight in Thailand, China, Japan and Guam soon.

Other fights that cold night were: Cary Bullos over Freddie Magada (KO, 26 seconds), Taku Nishimura over Lando Espinosa (submission), Magellan Perez over Tony Donaire (arm bar, 49 secs), Ryan Palinawan over Marciano Basas (KO, 1:57), Jesus Rabadon over Noble Ampoc (DQ, 6:34), Roy Docyogen over Jesi Rafols (RSC-TKO, 5:48), MJ Banaga over Carl Sebiniano (rear-naked choke, 3:01) and Earl Uy over Phil Bryner (TKO, 4:21).

The URCC, Universal Reality Combat Championship, is the first mixed martial arts event in the country. Started in 2002, it now involves 10 events.

Heeswijk, IS-Manila top Interschool kartfest



TRS PRESIDENT JP Tuason (extreme left) with (from left) 2nd runner-up Mark Beton, Brandon Heeswijk and 1st runner-up Brandon Chin.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT FOR THE Netherlands' Julian Van Heeswijk as he powered International School-Manila to the Enduro crown recently at the culmination of the 2007 Tuason Racing School (TRS)-Interschool Kartfest at the Manila Speedzone in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Heeswijk, a 17-year-old student of IS-Manila, made it double as he also emerged the individual Sprint champion.

Reaping the benefits of several practice sessions at Speedzone, Heeswijk led throughout the 12-lap race to claim the crown in the Sprint category of the event powered by Ford Racing.

"It's a fulfilling venture, considering I really prepared hard for this final race," said Heeswijk, who bagged P10,000 aside from the winner's trophy, a TRS gift pack, a set of Goodyear tires and Go Nuts Donuts gift certificate.

Brandon Chin, also 17, made it a 1-2 finish for IS-M as he placed second at the expense of Marc Beton of Manila Doctors College.

Heeswijk and Chin also powered International School to the overall championship in the Endurance category together with Jaime Jimenez, Yoshihiro Ono and Ravi Keswani. They completed 118 laps in two hours to prevail over Team Safety Car, also from IS, and third placer De La Salle Canlubang.

Chin was adjudged the Hugo Boss Fastest Male Driver while Hollie Dabon of Kalayaan College emerged the Fastest Female Driver.

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **Jewelry maker revives** old Filipino writing in craft /B4

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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NATIVE bags of L. G. Paran Mfg. Co. Inc. are made of different indigenous materials.

50-year-old handicraft firm weaves way to foreign markets

Orders used to come from Europe, but demand from Asia is picking up

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Inquirer Southern Luzon

DARAGA, Albay—IT STARTED AS THE business foray of a Batangas native trying to make it among unfamiliar people and practices in another province during the unstable period before World War II.

Six decades and three generations later, Lorenzo Guevara Paran's handicraft enterprise has remained a formidable presence in Barangay Kimantong here, continuously expanding and sustaining his bloodline.

The single proprietorship became a family corporation, LG Paran Manufacturing Co. Inc., in 1977. It is currently run by the late Paran's eldest son, Ramon, while another son, Lorenzo Jr., acts as vice president.

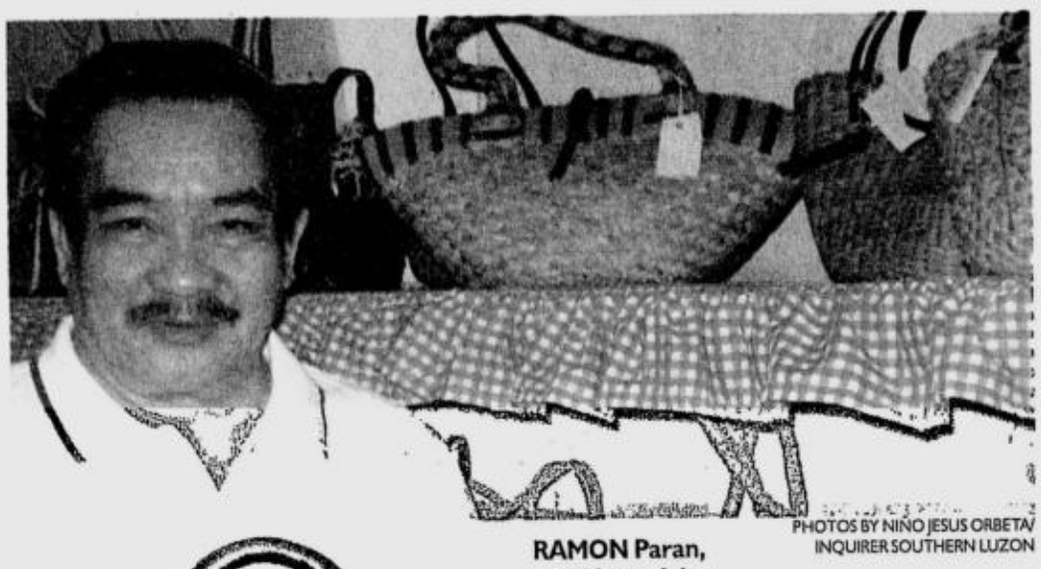
The company creates and sells table mats, doilies and other ornamental pieces, but the bulk of its business centers on making bags—from purses and pouches to handbags, sling bags and backpacks.

The bags are woven, mostly from indigenous materials, such as abaca, grass, straw and other plant textiles. Synthetic materials, such as plastics and artificial fabrics, are occasionally intertwined.

Export-oriented

Wood and plastic beads, shells, leather, lace and other craft yarns are commonly used for trimmings.

With its long-standing experience and business savvy, LG Paran has quietly stood out in the handicraft industry. Its success, however, is more evident abroad.



PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/ INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

RAMON Paran, president of the family-owned corporation L.G. Paran Mfg. Co. Inc. located in Barangay Kimant.

> 'Local market is more bothersome when it comes to collecting payment'

The bags cater exclusively to the foreign market and are sold wholesale at prices ranging from $5 to $15 apiece, depending on the kind and quantity of materials used.

Producing on a per-order basis, the supply reaches 5,000 to 10,000 pieces per month.

Orders used to come primarily from Europe, but demand has recently increased in neighboring Asian countries, Paran says.

"Around this time of the year, we're already starting to receive orders and enter our production phase. But we usually ship our products summer time because our colorful designs and light materials capture the feel of the season," he says.

In keeping with international standards, materials such as dyes, beads and cloth are imported.

Each design is also customized so that no two bags look exactly alike, Paran says.

Subcontracting

LG Paran used to have its own production facility, but it now subcontracts its labor needs in Albay and Sorsogon.

The system acts somewhat as an extensive assembly line. "One subcontractor would weave the materials, another would install the handles, while another would put in the trimmings," Paran says.

Most of the subcontractors are home-based units, which are popular in small villages, he says. "It gives an opportunity for those who cannot work in an 8-5 job to still earn and, at the same time, take care of their families."

Adaptation

With most of the activity occurring elsewhere, the three-story building in Kimantong, which houses LG Paran's main office, remains plain outside. But inside, the first two floors are lined with shelves overflowing with bags still tightly sealed in plastic wrappers.

50-YEAR/ B2

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India's wind man, is one of world's 'green billionaires'

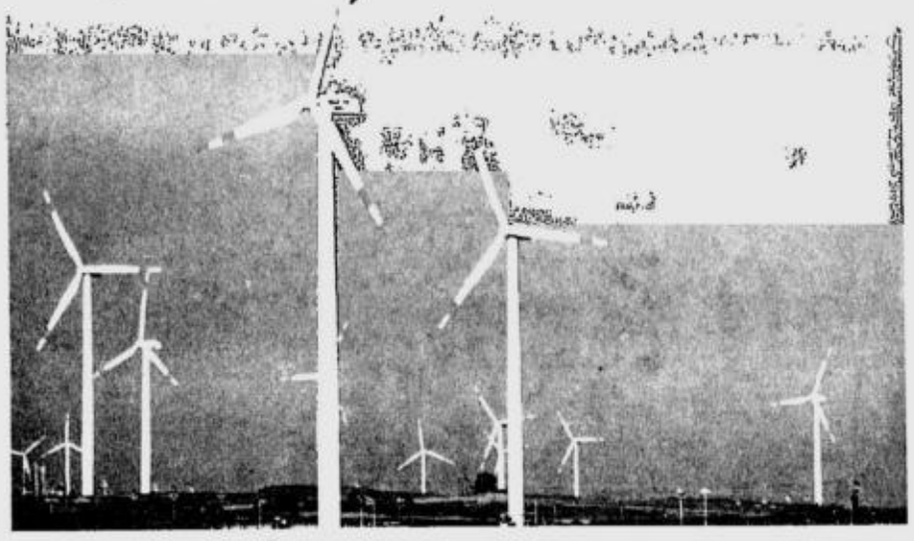
BANGALORE, INDIA—Saving the environment wasn't as much on his mind as cutting costs when Indian entrepreneur Tulsi Tanti first turned to wind energy 13 years ago.

Confronted with a soaring electricity bill and unpredictable power supply, Tanti had a pair of wind turbines installed at his textile plant in western India and became a quick convert to what became his business calling.

After building Suzlon into Asia's biggest wind energy firm in 12 years, Tanti can claim credit for prescience in seizing a market opportunity from concerns over global warming and climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

The 49-year-old mechanical engineer has also become a hero of the global renewable energy movement as the world counts the cost of greenhouse gas emissions and developing economies such as India's battle chronic power shortages requiring tens of billions of dollars in investment.

"From a Greenpeace perspective, he is definitely someone you would want as an ally, especially in an era of overdependence on coal-based energy," said K. Srinivas, the Bangalore-based energy campaigner for the global group.



TULSI TANTI AFP

SUZLON windfarm in Dhule. AFP

"He is expanding the renewable energy market and that's a wonderful thing," Srinivas added.

Tanti is sparing no effort in his quest to vault Suzlon into one of the world's top three wind energy companies after overtaking Siemens of Germany to grab the fifth spot last year.

This year, he won control of the German turbine maker REpower after a bidding war with Areva of France to capitalize on growing global demand for wind power. Last year, he purchased Belgium's Hansen, a maker of wind-turbine gearboxes.

Tanti has been busy this month with a 10-day "internal strategy" session in the beach resort of Goa, followed by the Diwali Hindu festival of light and overseas travel and was not available to comment for this story, his company's spokesperson said.

Wind is important

But he has said plenty already about the merits of what has become his driving passion.

"Wind energy can and will play one of the most important roles in saving the world of tomorrow, today," Tanti said recently. "We drive our business as a cause, one where we power a greener tomorrow." Fossil fuels are the world's biggest energy source but burning them produces heat-trapping greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, currently being debated at a global summit in the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

For Tanti, who founded Suzlon with three brothers in 1995 when he was little known, the accidental stumble into green energy has proved profitable.

His net worth was estimated this year by Forbes at $10 billion, making the chair and managing director of Suzlon one of the 40 richest in a country of 1.1 billion people.

Suzlon, based in Pune, western India, logged a net profit increase of 68 percent to a record 3.98 billion rupees (101.2 million dollars) in the quarter ended Sept. 30 on a 77 percent jump in sales to 36.41 billion rupees.

"The wind is blowing stronger than ever," Tanti commented when the company released its earning statement on Oct. 23.

From 20 people, Suzlon's workforce has grown to 12,000 and it has a presence in 15 countries spread across five continents.

Its initial share sale in 2005 was 46 times subscribed, vaulting it to the list of India's top 25 companies by market value.

The merits of wind

With profits came global recognition for Tanti, chosen by Time magazine this year as one of the "most innovative and influential protectors of the planet" and by Forbes as one of the world's "greenest billionaires." Profits can only grow for a company that had $4.1 billion dollars of orders to install 3,250.55 megawatts of wind energy as of Oct. 20, including $500 million for 368.50 megawatts in India.

The worldwide installed capacity of wind power reached 74,223 megawatts at the end of 2006, with India's 7,000 megawatts trailing only Germany, Spain and the United States.

Suzlon, which has a 7.7 percent share of the global market and almost 50 percent of India's, is eyeing expansion of capacity to 4,200 megawatts by March next year, from 2,700 megawatts.

Tanti estimates that demand for wind power will grow 25 percent a year as governments spur the use of more environmentally friendly alternative energy sources.

"There are no major renewable energy sources that can compete with wind energy," Vivek Kher, a vice president and spokesperson at Suzlon, said recently.

INDIA'S/ B4

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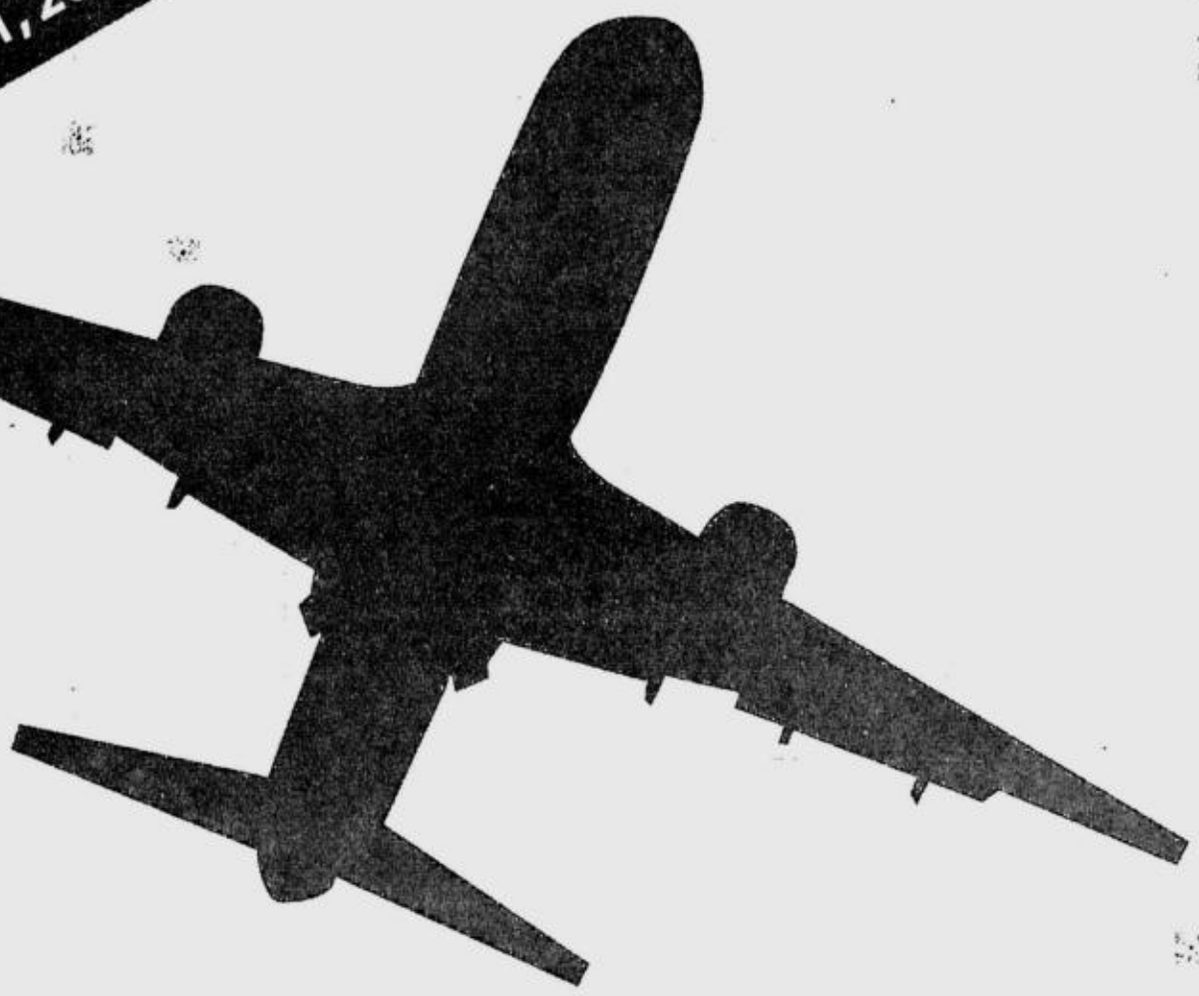

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For more details, please log on to www.inquirer.com.ph or call 897-8808 and look for Ms. Chris Vida.

Official Festival Representative

50-year-old ... From page B1

These products, Paran said, were only excess and display pieces.

"This building acts only as storage space. The pieces for actual export are usually stocked with the various subcontractors," he said.

But even the surplus items are sold, although rarely, to local buyers.

Executive assistant Salvacion Recuenco says that before LG Paran was turned into a family corporation, it used to cater wholesale to the local market.

The change in target market was motivated by a consistently bigger volume of orders abroad, Paran says.

"We also thought it best to focus on export because experience has taught us that the local market is more bothersome to contend with when it comes to collecting payment," he says.

Unlike in the local market, foreign orders are paid for beforehand. But this practice poses its own risks for export-oriented businesses, especially with the strengthening of the peso against the dollar.

"When the contract is already set and the dollar drops during production, *lugi kami sa huli* (We lose out in the end)," he explains.

A NATIVE bag of L.G. Paran Mfg. Co. Inc.

However, the current business climate has opened new opportunities for export-oriented businesses, Paran says.

"Exposure is easier now because we have trade fairs and exhibits. Before, we used to have to send samples to our market abroad. Now, the market comes to us," he says. LG Paran participated in the Manila FAME International exhibit held in October.

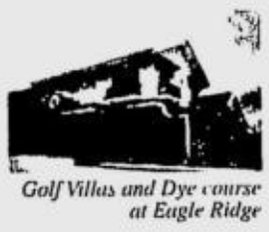
STA. LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Gearing up for new markets

After more than 35 years of building real estate subdivisions and golf communities, Sta. Lucia brings its development expertise into the construction of houses and mixed-use condominiums. With the increasing demand for homes within the city, Sta. Lucia looks into developing several strategic sites into high rise towers within Metro Manila. Medium-rise condos are currently being built within selected Sta. Lucia projects.

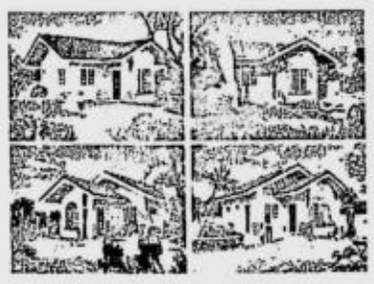
In Mactan, the condotel Sotogrande has recently been completed, the first of a cluster of residential condos within Vistamar Resort and Residential Estates. La Mirada is the second condominium, now being constructed.

There are Golf Villas at Eagle Ridge Golf and townhomes at the Orchard Golf, both located in Cavite, about an hour's drive south of Metro Manila. House and lot packages are now available in various Sta. Lucia communities, part of the company's move to service the continuing demand for ready housing.



Golf Villas and Dye course at Eagle Ridge

Sta. Lucia builds with the homeowner in mind. Many of its pioneering efforts are now a general trend in the industry,



and the standard of many first class real estate projects. An entrance gate welcomes residents to a masterplanned communiy, which is built with a concrete road network and complete facilities. Whether big or small, the community will generally have a clubhouse and basketball court, then and still the most popular sport in the country.

Sta. Lucia has golf communities all over the country, building more golf courses than any other local developer. In Gen.Trias, Cavite, Eagle Ridge is the first and only golf community in the country with 4 golf courses, designed by four different designers -- Isao Aoki, Nick Faldo, Greg Norman and Andy Dye.

Vistamar Beach Resort, Mactan

Sta. Lucia has been awarded Developer of the Year in 2003, by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (CREBA), and is a Reader's Digest Trusted Brand gold awardee for the year 2006 and 2007.

Yet all these come as a natural flow of Sta. Lucia's commitment to its clients. In all its endeavors, it seeks to deliver as promised. Sta. Lucia has been doing exactly that for the past 35 years, and works to do so in the years to come.

KENNETH Cobonpue, a PACE member and Jay Aldeguer

ENTREPRENEUR Glenn Soco in his Porsche Spyder

Entrepreneurs bond for love of classic cars

Despite the members' growing stead of classic cars, they do not merely collect cars for display.

THEY DON'T MAKE CARS anymore like they used to.

This is the school of thought of the Cebu-based car club Performance and Classic Car Enthusiasts (PACE), a group that promotes the understanding and appreciation of classic cars. Recently, the club gained recognition as they joined the 40th anniversary celebration of the Manila Sport Car Club (MSCC) Concours d'Elegance, the Philippines' vintage and classic car show as a guest club, and participated in the 8th Cebu Motorshow International last Oct. 16-21 at the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City, where they exhibited classic cars of their members.

PACE president Chris Tio, owner of toy store Toys@Work , collected Matchbox cars as a kid, and when he was old enough to drive, his interest grew to real versions of the toys he used to collect. Today, he is the proud owner of a classic 1973 Porsche 911 Carrera, in RS livery.

Meanwhile, Jay Aldeguer, president and CEO of Island Souvenirs, is a Porsche enthusiast, with four in his stead: a '74 911 S Targa, a '78 911 Super Carrera, a '91 911 Carrera 2, and a '68 912. His passion for the car manufacturer extends to collecting Porsche memorabilia and vintage dealers' crests.

Aldeguer's Porsche passion influenced world renowned furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue to restore a 1984 Turbo bodied 911 Convertible. Later on he acquired a 1959 Porsche 356 A Cabriolet, considered by many to be the "Holy Grail of Classic Cars," an '89 Porsche 911 Speedster, and an '87 red Ferrari 328 GTS. (The '89 Porsche 911 Speedster, which is acknowledged to be the only one in the Philippines, has been acquired by another club member, Darren Deen.)

At present, PACE counts 12 active members on its list, with distinguished members such as Tony Lozada, Glen Soco, Dr. Yong Larrazabal, Michael Lhuillier, Louie Uy, Joseph So, Darren Deen, Erwin Miranda, and Grand Benedicto.

Not just a car club

Tio notes that PACE is selective in its membership because they are particular about the level of enthusiasm of its members.

"We're seeking out real enthusiasts," says Tio. "people who will go to great lengths for the perfect drive."

Despite the members' growing stead of classic cars, they do not merely collect cars for display. In fact, the group often makes weekend runs, especially around the winding roads of Busay, and recently, from Cebu to Bacolod, passing through Dumaguete and aboard the Ro-Ro.

"Our cars aren't garage queens," Tio quips. "We wake up at the crack of dawn and we take the cars out for drives. We keep the cars in great shape, and we bring them everywhere. We drive the cars as they were meant to be driven, especially during their time."

The parade of classic cars automatically draws people's attention. "As we rumble down the roads, people come out to the streets to salute us. People from all walks of life get excited as they see the cars they grew up with, incredulous that the cars are so well preserved," Tio narrates. "It's a fantastic feeling, the kinship that these cars evoke. We meet so many people from all walks of life, bound by appreciation for classic cars."

Despite its roster of illustrious members, PACE isn't a rich man's club. Not all classic cars are necessarily expensive, luxury cars. A classic car can be a very well preserved car. It may not have been very rare but it served a moment in our history. For some members , its even personal as they restore their father's first car.

"Even someone who owns the fanciest car will be subject to the group's scrutiny. More than the car, we really look at the owner's enthusiasm and passion for it. We've even accepted members who are enthusiasts but don't have cars yet," reveals Tio. "It's not easy to get a good classic or vintage car, and it can take time to find the car that's right for you. That doesn't happen overnight."

Classics never go out of style

People get drawn to classic cars for different reasons, PACE co-founder Jay Aldeguer points out. "Some like to collect these cars, while others enjoy restoring them from the ground up. Some just like looking at them in their garage and joining car shows. Others, like myself, really enjoy the driving pleasure these cars bring."

"Classics are more than just old cars; they are representatives of their time, reflecting

YOUNG/ B4

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Jewelry maker revives old Filipino writing in craft

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—Shirley Libre, a micro entrepreneur, has the biggest dreams for Baybayin Crafts.

Beyond the elegance of her jewelry, these promote cultural heritages.

The Baybayin Crafts started in 2004, offering a selection of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and other items such as key chains, cell phone accessories and wind chimes.

The beads and pendants are made out of dolomite and terracotta clay and are engraved with the Baybayin script.

Not only for artistic expression, but the Baybayin characters also speak of certain virtues and Filipino values.

"It is basically changing the culture of wearing jewelry. You wear positive thoughts that you want to acquire in your life," Shirley explains.

Some of the accessories are engraved with "bathala" (god), "equanimity," "journey into the light within," "inner strength," or "self-realization."

Following the thoughts of Japanese researcher Masaru Emoto, Shirley believes that the encryptions bring positive energy to the person wearing them.

Shirley gets her ideas from her own experience and other people's thoughts.

She says she used to have about a hundred varieties of encryptions until she established the predominant choices of the customers.

And since her market comes from the younger generation, Shirley eventually learned the fad and added "Pinoy," "astig," and "kering-keri" to the selection.

SHIRLEY Libre, owner of Baybayin Crafts.

PHOTOS BY MARICAR CINCO/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Learning her ABCs

In 1985, Shirley worked in a nongovernment organization for the indigenous people.

Part of their activity was to visit the Mangyans in Mindoro where she met a young native who taught her the indigenous Baybayin writing system or Surat Mangyan.

As if a work of fate, Shirley met the native again after ten years and was reminded of their first encounter.

Little did she know that after another decade, she would be working with the ancient script.

The Baybayin, also known as Alibata, is an ancient, precolonial syllabic writing.

It is composed of 17 characters, each representing a syllable instead of a single sound as with the English alphabet.

According to Shirley, the Baybayin continues to exist today but only among the Buhid and the Hanunoo groups of the Mangyan tribe.

"There's something that the Baybayin rouses in you," Shirley notes.

She explains that the ancient thinking had always been syllabic until the colonizers came.

"Other cultures like India, China, Korea, and Japan entered the atomic age using their ancient script with pride," Shirley adds.

Taking pride with the ancient culture, Shirley believes that "Filipinos need to go back to our own Baybayin. Not necessarily to use it but to at least appreciate it through arts and in their day-to-day lives."

Manlilikha

Shirley took up pottery lessons in 2001.

She remembers that while everyone in the class was making vigil candles and offertory plates, she instead became fond of molding small clay beads and carving Baybayin in them.

Using the pseudonym Manlilikha (creator), Shirley decided to join trade bazaars to showcase the Baybayin Crafts.

The first occasion was in 2004 during the Linggo ng Wika celebration in Quiapo, followed by a trade fair held in Los Baños.

"It was difficult for me to start since I was not really into business and I am still a young artist," Shirley says.

She even remembers learning some styles of looping the cord of the necklaces from a customer in Quiapo.

Aside from pottery, Shirley also works with a group of friends promoting cultural heritage.

They call it the "Titik, Himig at Binhi" (Letters, Music and Seed) that practices the use of Baybayin script, indigenous music and instruments, and indigenous or organic agriculture.

Consignment

Shirley displays the Baybayin Crafts through consignment in gift shops in Los Baños and Manila.

With help from her friends, she continues to participate in trade bazaars and school fairs.

"I don't know yet where to go from here," Shirley says when asked of any plan to put up her own store or open a business outlet in malls.

As for exporting her products, she says she wants to promote the Baybayin Crafts among Filipinos first.

Shirley now works with two of her part-time helpers at home.

She really intends to set up her working place at the foot of Mt. Makiling, finding much inspiration from its scenery.

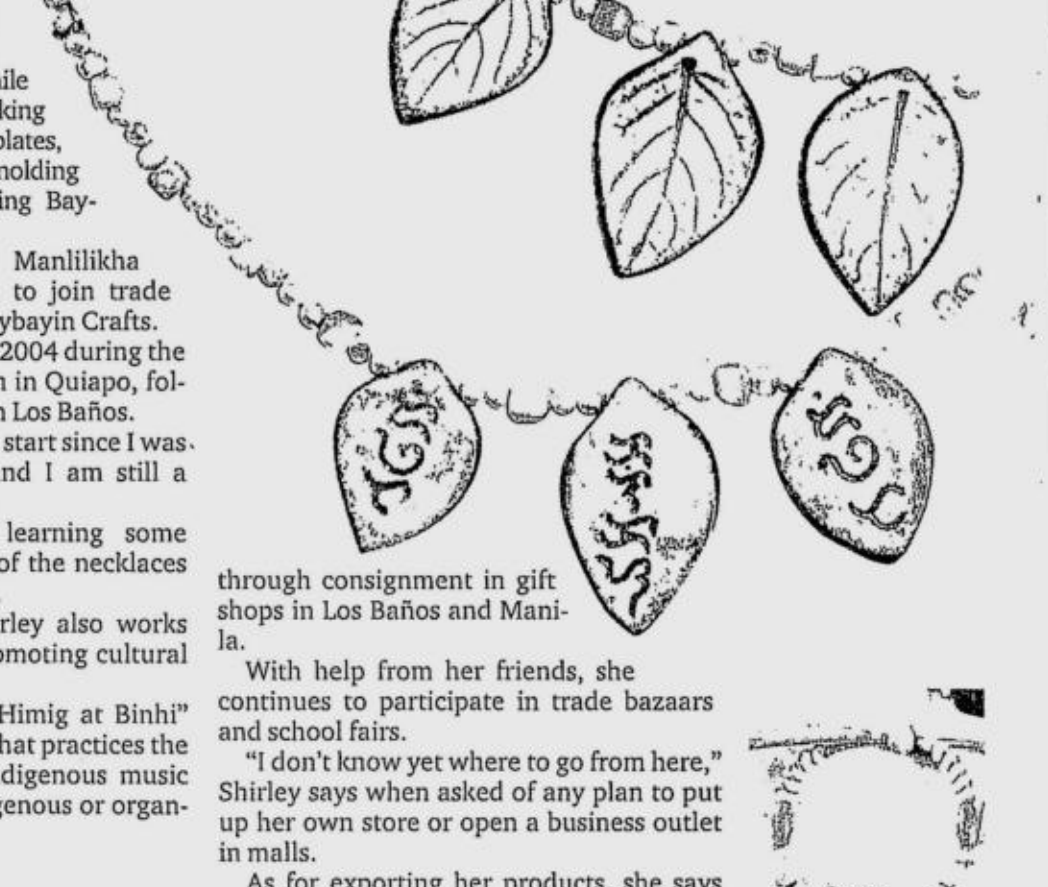
She says she will also have to invest for a bigger kiln in the future.

According to Shirley, the Baybayin Crafts has now become her main source of living. She may not earn much from it but, she says, it is enough to support her and pay her staff.

"What is important is that I enjoy creating and people enjoy buying and using the Baybayin Crafts," Shirley says.

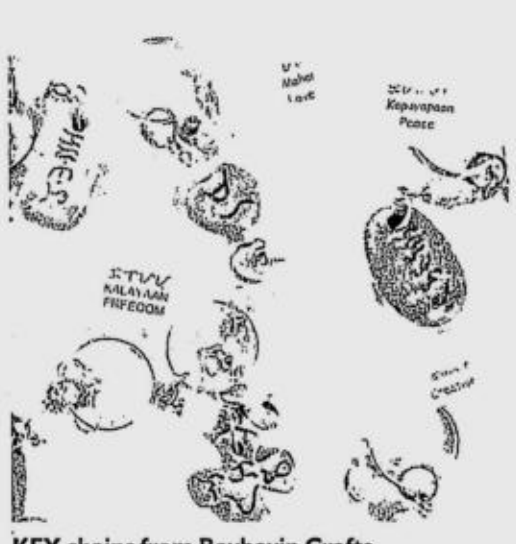
Promoting the ancient script and the wearing of positive soul qualities gives meaning to her as an artist, she adds.

Maricar Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon



SOME of the necklace designs at the Baybayin Crafts.

HAND accessories at the Baybayin Crafts, where beads and pendants are made out of dolomite and terracotta clay and are engraved with the Baybayin script.



KEY chains from Baybayin Crafts

SOME of the necklace designs are engraved Baybayin script.

Young execs bond for love of classic cars

From page B3

simpler lifestyles," Tio asserts. "Today cars are power-driven, packed with features. Anyone can drive a modern car safely at 180 kph; cars are now packed with electronics and features that add to the drivers abilities ... But in a classic car, it's a lot different. The lack of modern amenities such as power steering, ABS brakes or even just a radio guarantees your passion. there was a time when driving was all about the car and the road, when driving demanded 100 percent of your attention and nothing else mattered."

To PACE member Tony Lozada, these cars allow him to reminisce about his younger days. "I see these cars as an extension of myself. When I was younger, I admired these cars but was never able to drive them. I always wondered what it would feel like to sit behind the wheel of these cars. I still marvel at the fact that I can drive the car of my dreams today and I see how far I've come from that guy who used to admire these cars from a distance."

Lozada also believes that older cars have their own personalities. "Often, people built these cars with their bare hands. Each classic car is a tribute to these people, for the hours they put into designing the models, and the artisans that handcrafted the details."

"I consider classic cars as an art form," Tio agrees. "These cars were designed without computers, and yet the lines are simply beautiful, and even to this day, they still turn heads whenever they cruise down the street.

But classic cars do come with baggage. First of all, acquiring one is a challenge in itself, but the search for one is sometimes the best part of the whole experience.

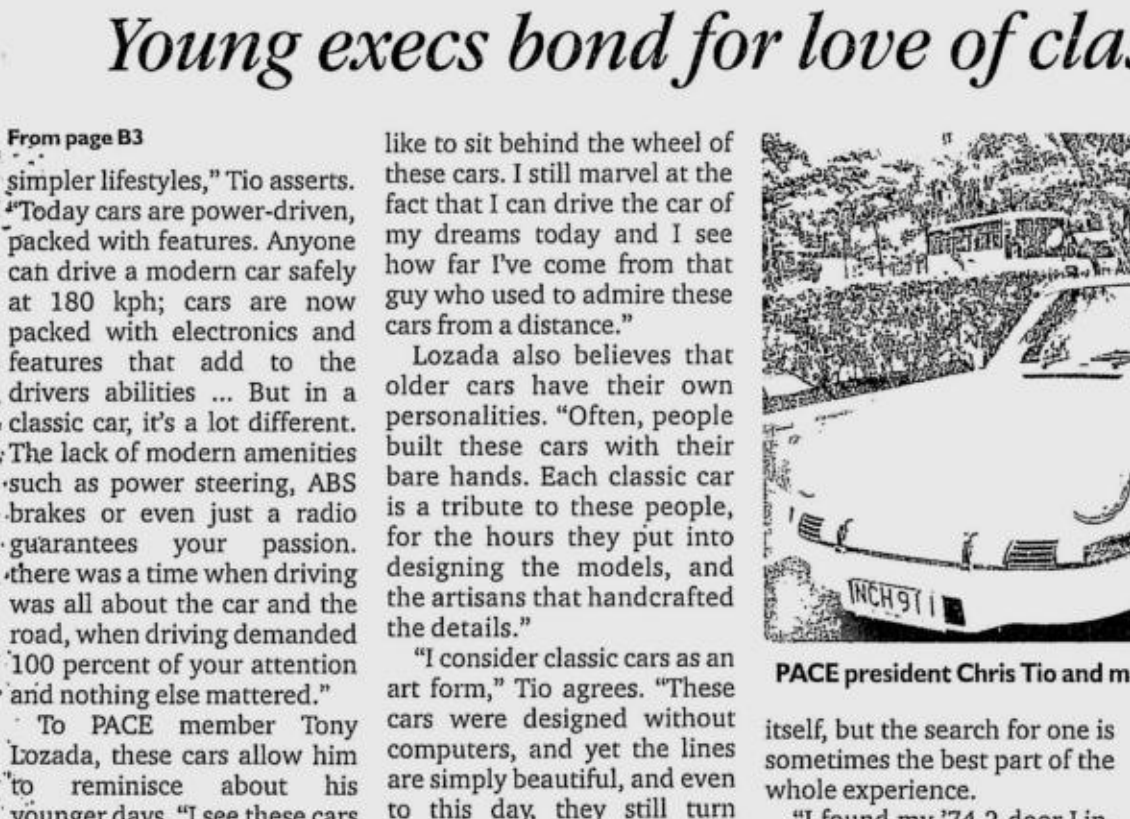
PACE president Chris Tio and member Tony Lozada

"I found my '74 2-door Lincoln abandoned in a garage crawling with rats," narrates Lozada. "But it was in mint condition, with only 4,000 miles on the speedometer!"

Aldeguer has a similar experience. "I'd say my '68 912 is my most significant find. I bought it from a gentleman in Cebu who bought it brand new in the US during his honeymoon. The 40-year-old car was kept in superb condition and only had 11,000 miles on it. There was no major restoration needed on this classic—even the original Semperit tires came with the car!"

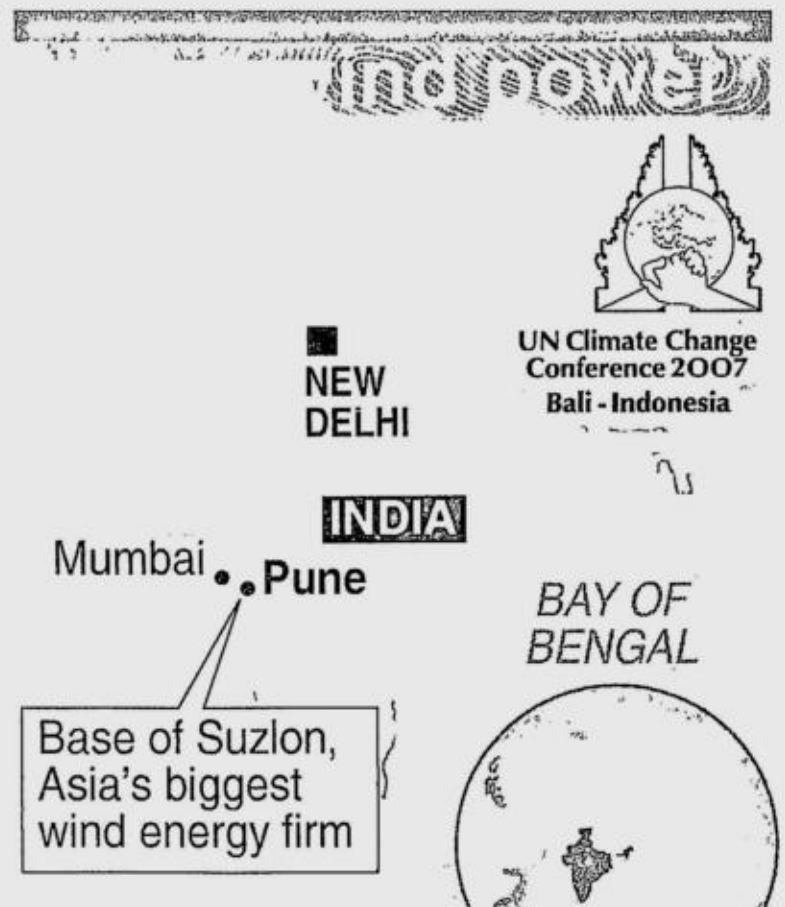
Aside from being harder to find, older cars also tend to be more problematic and require more time and resources to keep them in shape.

"To be a real car enthusiast, you have to suffer," pronounces Tio. "You have to chance breaking down on the road and actually enjoy the experience. We've had so many runs when a member's car breaks down and we all pitch in to help, loving every minute of it. It's the greatest feeling, reaching your destination safely."



PACE on one of its weekend runs

India's wind man ...



From page B2

"Technology has not been able to make solar energy grid-friendly," he went on. "The environmental impact of hydel (hydroelectric) power is a major consideration in many parts of the world; many other energy forms such as wave energy and geothermal energy are in the realm of the unknown." As the time taken to install wind turbines comes down and the machines become more reliable and perform better, wind power is becoming a favored choice of energy.

India's government offers lucrative incentives to develop and promote the use of wind energy, allowing companies to write off 80 percent of the cost of installing turbines in the first year, said energy expert Gaurav Gandhi.

Wind power users also enjoy cheaper tariffs, said Gandhi, who estimates that India has a potential market of 66,000 megawatts for what he calls the "safest source of electricity without any emissions."

"Tanti grabbed the opportunity that was there but government policies are responsible to some extent for his success," said Gandhi, a research associate at the Energy and Resources Institute. *AFP*

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Manila revs up investment campaign

THE PHILIPPINES' WORLD-class export processing zones and industrial estates with their highly skilled workers, reliable infrastructure and quality lifestyle could serve as ideal regional manufacturing hubs and technological bases for Taiwanese enterprises waging aggressive expansion strategies in Asia , Philippine investment promoters said.

"We are your entry point to the Asean market," Richard Albert Osmond, chair of the Calabarzon Regional Development Council, told Taiwanese entrepreneurs during a Taipei roadshow led by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

"Calabarzon" is a regional economic group comprising the southern Luzon provinces of Cavite , Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon.

"The province of Laguna has been known as the 'Detroit of the Philippines ,'" said Osmond, adding that auto makers such as Honda, Toyota , Isuzu and Nissan have already built manufacturing hubs in the area.

Semiconductor companies such as Philips, Fuji and Fastech have also established their operations in the province, making Laguna the "Silicon Valley of the Philippines," he continued.

The Philippines attracted P271 billion of investments in 2006, exceeding the government's target by 18 billion pesos, he said.

There are 187 Taiwanese companies successfully operating in the Philippines ' special export processing zones including Acer, Orient Semiconductor and LiteOn, said Edgar Zamora, assistant vice president of the Philippine Eco-zones Association (PHILEA).

MECO's Dita Angara-Mathay, director for Commercial Affairs of MECO described the Philippines as one of the fast-growing electronic hubs in Asia.

"Eight out of the world's top 30 chipmakers are now in the Philippines including Texas Instruments and Intel. Four of the largest HDD producers are also in the Philippines.

The Southeast Asian country's IT-enabled sector is also enjoying as much as 50 percent growth annually, MECO's Bautista said.

Business process outsourcing from medical and legal transcription services, computer graphics and animation to back offices that provide accounting and bookkeeping services is one of the Philippines' star industries.

Taiwanese companies should also consider setting up call centers in the country, said Nic Bautista, MECO deputy director for Commercial Affairs.

From four call centers in 2000, the country today has 146 centers employing more than 150,000 workers. Revenues soared from $20 million in 2000 to today's $2.7 billion.

The write to multitask

MULTITASKING is not about a bewildered worker juggling a mess of duties that demand attention all at once. Successful executives know that there is an art to multitasking so that the individual does not end up feeling overtaxed.

Different strategies work for different persons in different cases but in any stressful environment, time management is key.

The Parker Executive Multi-Pen is a handy tool that can help you meet the demands of day-to-day business routine. It contains four pen modes in one ergonomic body, becoming a sort of communications hub for the busy top officer. By simply rotating the body so that the icon of your preferred tool faces you, you can easily choose and switch from one function to another with classy ease. With Parker Executive Data Multi-Pen, you can go from black or red ballpoint, to 0.5mm pencil, to the stylus option for your PDA. For users of Parker Executive Highlight Multi-Pen, there are black and blue ball points, a highlighter, and a mechanical pencil.

The Multi-Pen is an instrument that is both novel and elegantly straightforward. Instead of changing pens to accomplish various tasks, you can wear just one Parker Executive Multi-Pen on your lapel or breast pocket.

The pen comes in three finishes—shiny chrome, matte black, and matte chrome so executives can multitask in style. Customers also have the option of getting a sleek, square metal box that serves as a pen case. The Parker Executive Multi-Pen is available in leading department stores nationwide.

Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés? We can help you.
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DROP YOUR RESUMES OFF

Important message to smokers from JT International

No cigarette is safe

Cigarette companies have traditionally used various means to allow consumers to distinguish between products. These may be words, like "light", "smooth", "mild" or pack colors, or other elements of product and pack design.

None of these elements of pack or product design, including the brand names, taste and flavor of our cigarettes, are intended to suggest that any cigarette is less harmful than any other.

In particular, tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide numbers printed on cigarette packs do not give individual smokers a precise figure of how much of these substances they inhale.

These numbers indicate the amount of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide contained in the smoke of each cigarette in the pack when measured under standard conditions by a special smoking machine. They provide an internationally recognized method of comparison between different brands, used in many countries around the world by manufacturers and public authorities alike.

However, a smoking machine cannot replicate the way each individual smokes. Smokers puff on cigarettes in different ways and may inhale different amounts of tar and nicotine from what is indicated on the pack.

For instance, it is possible that when switching to cigarettes with lower tar and nicotine numbers, some smokers may vary the way they smoke and obtain to some extent the experience of smoking a higher tar and nicotine number product. They may do so, for example, by taking more puffs or larger puffs.

No cigarette is safe. So you should not switch to another type, flavor or strength of cigarettes on the assumption that it will lower your health risks from smoking. Switching is not a substitute for quitting. If you want to reduce or eliminate the health risks of smoking, quitting is the best choice for you. Many smokers have quit without help, but if you have difficulty quitting, you should consult a health professional.

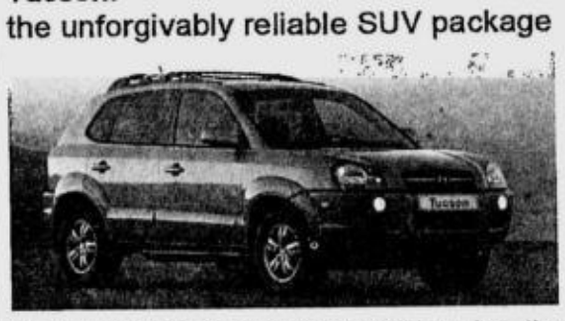
JTI

40th Anniversary
HYUNDAI Drive your way

JOURNEY WITH THE BIG GUNS:
TUCSON, SANTA FE AND VERACRUZ

When the open road beckons exhilaration and the path unexpectedly yields to an untamed journey, go ahead and summon your edgy alter ego. With Hyundai's big guns—the Tucson, Santa Fe, and Veracruz—muscling up your drive, you're fully loaded for the next unforgettable ride of your life.

Tucson: the unforgivably reliable SUV package



As Hyundai's first crack at the SUV market, the Tucson is immediately arresting as it sports both rugged individuality and dynamic overall performance. On and off road, the Tucson is a reliable companion as it ingeniously tailors long distance driving comfort with exceptional fuel economy to effortlessly adapt to your active lifestyle. Dubbed as the unforgivably affordable SUV, the Tucson affords you smooth, responsive power with your choice of engine variants — the 2.0 liter CVVT petrol with the 2WD option and the 2.0 liter CRDi which comes with the 2WD and Electronic 4WD with 4WD lock mode option — all blended seamlessly to whet your appetite for spirited driving.

Inside, this aggressively exciting SUV ceaselessly amazes you with its profound sense of comfort translated to a spacious layout and generous conveniences. Cup holders, trays, and compartments for small and large items abound to keep your stash-aways such as maps and books, and your luggage neatly organized. Adding up to the level of confidence expected of a Tucson is its array of safety features such as standard airbags and seatbelts; Antilock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD); and a 4WD Lock Mode available for the Tucson CRDi variant, providing a 50/50 torque split that you can enable at the touch of a dashboard-mounted button.

Santa Fe: To Die For

Nothing was left to chance when this exceptionally appealing and handsome SUV was molded, no wonder it has become the highly sought after SUV in town. More up-market comfort, more car-like driving characteristics and eye-catching style – the Santa Fe is a unique package which radiates lifestyle fitness and vitality.

Ushering in a new platform of elegance in SUVs, the Santa Fe's big, commanding grille design, horizontal light clusters, clean, sleek lines, graceful curves, and body-colored bumpers complement giving it a peerless, fluid look for an instantaneous visual gratification.

Luxury remains a consistent benchmark of the Santa Fe as you step inside its seven-seat cabin that evokes sophistication with its modern interior lavished by embellishments styled with wood and satin metal. An ergonomic cockpit with an instrumentation panel illuminated in cool blue lends a refreshing touch. Fold down the third-row seats and have an enormous flat area with a low loading sill ready to accommodate travel must-haves and the occasional domestic load—think balikbayan boxes with all your precious pasalubongs.

On or off road, smooth or tough drives—however you fancy your journey, the Santa Fe definitely delivers with its reassuring off-road capability matched with sedan-like comfort and driveability. Whether you choose gasoline-fed or diesel-fed power plants, you're assured of sheer excitement driving a Santa Fe. Wrapped in all-aluminum alloy, the Santa Fe's 2.7 liter V6 4WD petrol engine affords you fuel economy with Variable Intake System (VIS) and Continuous Variable Valve Timing (CVVT), yet delivers a breathtaking horsepower of up to 188 ps at 6,000 rpm and torque of 25.3 kg-m at 4,000 rpm.

Not to be outdone is the Santa Fe's 2.2 liter CRDi, available in 2WD and 4WD variants, with Variable Geometry Turbocharger (VGT) diesel engine, that

churns out an intense 335Nm (34.2 kg/m) of torque between 1,800 rpm and 2,500 rpm, yet it's surprisingly fuel-efficient to keep your mind on the road and off your pocket. Putting control to the Santa Fe's immense power is its re-engineered suspension system that utilizes a multi-link layout at the rear and a reinforced MacPherson strut-type suspension at the front for more comfortable long drives. Boasting the same token of comfort and worry-free driving, the safety features of the Santa Fe are also indulging, such as 16-inch disc brakes, Antilock Braking System with EBD, SRS airbags, and structural integrity underscored by rigid safety tests found in the strictest of Hyundai's engineering facilities.

Larger than life luxury—Veracruz

Who says big things only come in small packages? With the Veracruz, living large is the ultimate reward. Endowed with the richness of space, full equipment levels, engine power, and top-rate safety and convenience features, the Veracruz exhibits supple automotive engineering definitive of its opulent heritage.

Up front, the Veracruz renders itself intimidating on the road with its towering stance, sleek lines, massive curvaceous front, and HID headlamps. Step inside its domain and surround yourself in unbridled elegance with its rich leather interior dotted with dual tone trim materials, fine cloth and metallic elements that add just the right aplomb to the inviting cocoon of the Veracruz.

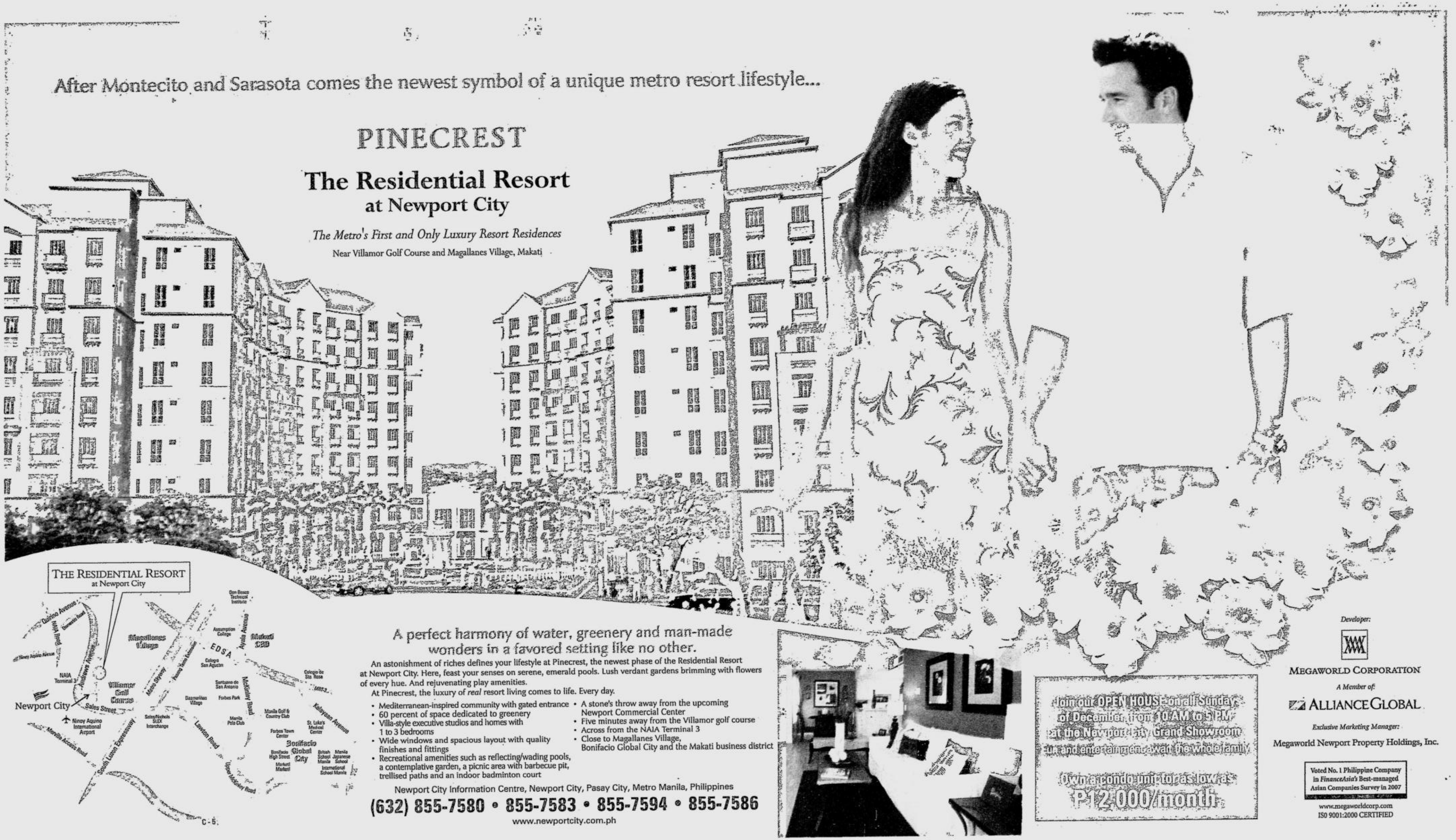
At the cockpit, the driver's seat and tilt-telescopic steering wheel are motorized to easily adjust to your preferred driving position, while the instrument panel is illuminated in blue to minimize eye strain. Conveniences such as 12v outlets, door and seat back storage pockets, luggage compartment and reading lamps, lit lockable glove box, power windows with anti-pinch, a six-disc Infinity sound system, electric exterior mirrors, and a whole host more, keep comfort and flexibility within easy reach wherever you go.

Space is likewise a boon in the Veracruz, as its third row seats split fold 50:50, recline and have adjustable headrests. The second row seats on the other hand fold 60:40 and slide easily forward to allow third row accessibility. You can also fold away all rear seats and have a full area of cargo space at your disposal.

At the forefront of diesel engine technology is the 3.0 liter V6 CRDi E-VGT engine that powers the Veracruz. Remarkably quiet and frugal on fuel, this diesel power plant delivers 240ps and 46kg.m of torque, making the Veracruz one of the most high-performing diesel-powered SUVs in its class. Selectable 4WD, traction control, ABS with EBD, and ESP put the stability of the Veracruz in optimum control. Adding up to its safety profile are front, side and curtain airbags, and big, wide tires to keep a firm grip on the road.

As life becomes a battleground of sorts as you journey from urban jungle, to hotspots, to getaways, rendezvous, adventures, or the simple pleasure of hanging out away from home, power your drive with the big guns of Hyundai—the Tucson, Santa Fe, and Veracruz.

For more inquiries about Hyundai's SUV lineup or to schedule a test drive, visit the nearest authorized Hyundai dealership.


After Montecito and Sarasota comes the newest symbol of a unique metro resort lifestyle...
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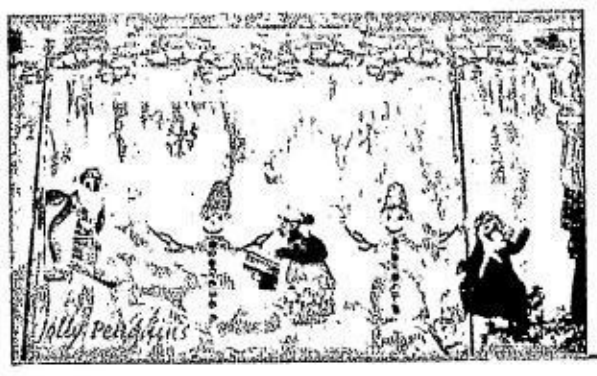

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Editor's naive Board

WHAT A SIGHT!

TAKE A BOW, NENA TANTOCO AND TEAM!

It has begun to look a lot like Christmas at Rustan's. A whole lot! Thank goodness for the store's window displays. We all can use some cheering after that B-movie of a drama starring an egotistic senator and a bunch of arrogant soldiers who would never make it to Santa's list of "A Few Good Men."

Each of the 10 window displays at Rustan's flagship store on Ayala Avenue is a delicious slice of Christmas dedicated to kids from one to 92. The mantra around the country's premier department store these days is, "Awaken the child in you," and they have their beautiful windows to support it.

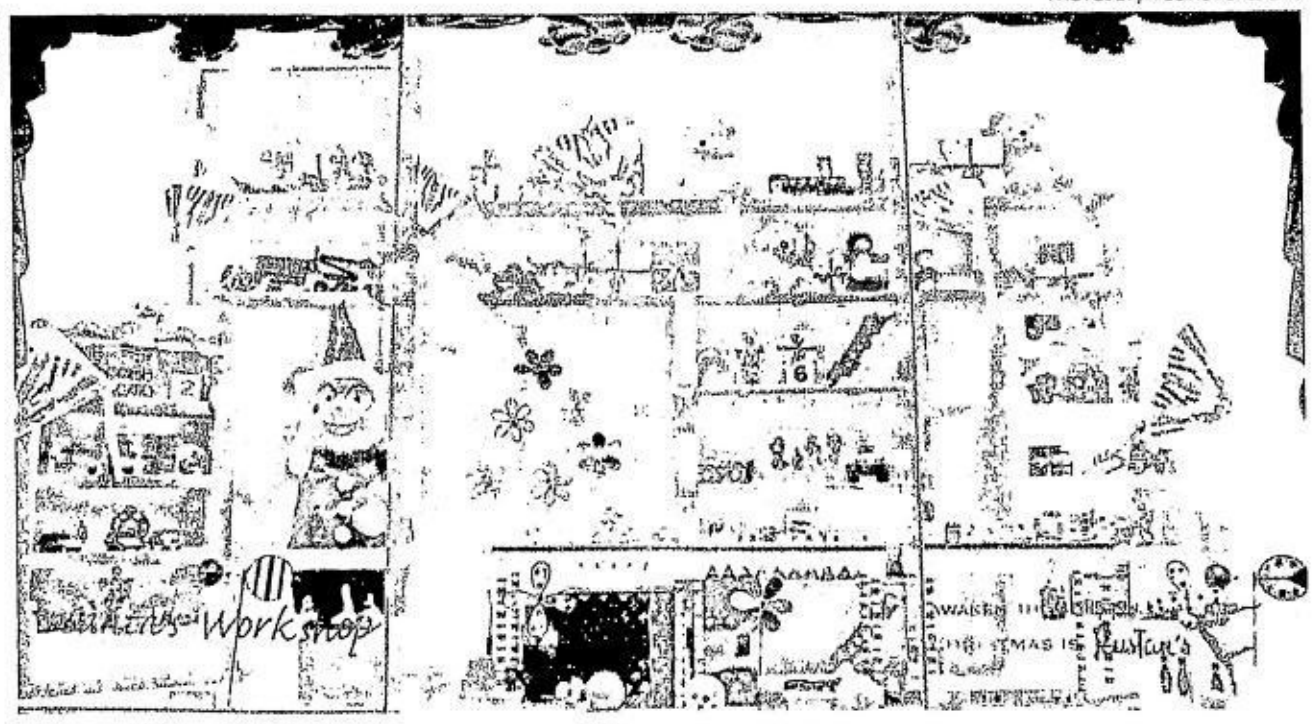
When I saw the windows on a recent evening while I wa s out in the Glorietta area running an erran d , I was astounded. They brought the good cheer that I needed at that moment as I was beginning to lose my cool from having to sit in a car in the middle of traffic. It felt like a Christmas fairy flew overhead and sprinkled ho-ho-holiday dust over me.

One window shows the holiday express, a train of sleighs filled with gifts and shopping bags. Next to it is an elaborate Santa's workshop with an elf stocking up on toys, kites and pinwheels. The wheel of surprises is a carnival ride in mostly red. Following it is a fantastic candy factory starring a mouse surrounded by lollies, mints and candy canes. The "majestic bearers of gifts" window shows royally dressed white camels next to a manger.

Turn the corner and you'll find bears playing a symphony. The fantasy in the next glass cubicle shows Christmas fairies against a backdrop of white and silver trees. The merry carousel has three raggedy dolls enjoying a horse ride. Another window has jolly penguins on skis or surfboards chumming it up with snowmen. Then there's Santa in his sleigh being pulled by reindeers over snow-capped pine trees.

I loved the movements—the tiny mouse conductor on a rotating pedestal, the kites flying, the colorful pinwheels, the turning lollipops. And when I saw the carts of poinsettias on the sidewalks fronting the windows, I could only swoon. I happen to love those little red Christmas blooms (time to make a trip to King Louie).

I've always liked the way Rustan's is lighted during the holiday season. One year tiny lights outlined the building into a huge gift box, complete with a nicely-done bow on top. This year, the lights depict snow flakes.



DESIGNED to awaken the child in each of us are the display windows at Rustan's flagship store on Ayala Avenue.

It took months for Rustan's creatives to come up with the concept, and two-and-a-half weeks to physically put up the displays, according to Nena Tantoco, who heads the Visuals & Merchandising Division. Three-fourths of Rustan's annual display budget goes to the Christmas showcase. Oh but it is money well-spent!

For every P500 worth of purchases at Rustan's this whole month of December, a peso will go to Cribs Foundation (Essenses is not included).

Shopping hours at Rustan's are 11 a.m. to 12 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays this month. The holiday display of Rustan's will be up until January 15 (the longest Christmas, remember?)

If you see children having their photos taken before Rustan's windows, stop and watch them in their enchantment. It's a good way to begin christmasing merrily ever after. —*Chelo Banal-Formoso*

PLAY

PLDT MV

L-R: Sandy Romualdez of Philippine Daily Inquirer having a laugh with Alfred Ty of Metrobank and Sanjiv Vohra of Citibank.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT & SMART Chairman expresses his gratitude to all the participants and guests at the MVP Cup 2007 Tournament held in Wack Wack Golf and Country Club

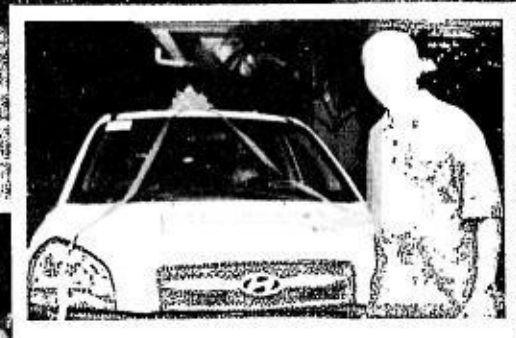
L-R: Willy Tee Ten of Hyundai Global City, and Dingo Bonifacio of Remec Wireless Broadband Inc.

Felix Ang of CATS Motors

Al Panlilio of PLDT Global

George Yang of McDonald's and Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT & SMART Chairman

Roy Sangil of Department of Finance



Winner of Hyundai Tucson, Rey Maclang of Allied Banking Corporation

L-R: Anton Lim of PLDT, Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group, German Ambassador H.E. Christian Ludwig Weber-Lortsch and Ronald David of PLDT

Jay Lagdameo awarding Jesus Francisco of Meralco with a DVD player.

Augustus Ferreria of Generali Pilipinas

L-R: Alex Prieto of Marilex and Napoleon L Nazareno, PLDT & SMART President and CEO

Chris Young of PLDT

Eduardo Francisco of BDO Capital and Investment

L-R: Robert Trota of Max's Group, Eugene Ellis of Standard Chartered Bank

Willie Uy of Phinma receives a DVD player from PLDT

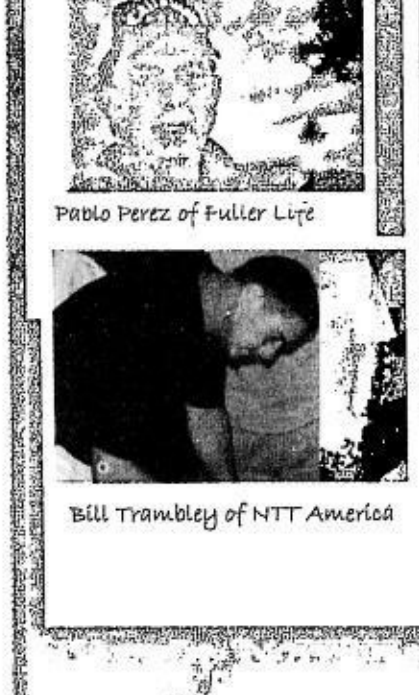
Pablo Perez of Fuller Life

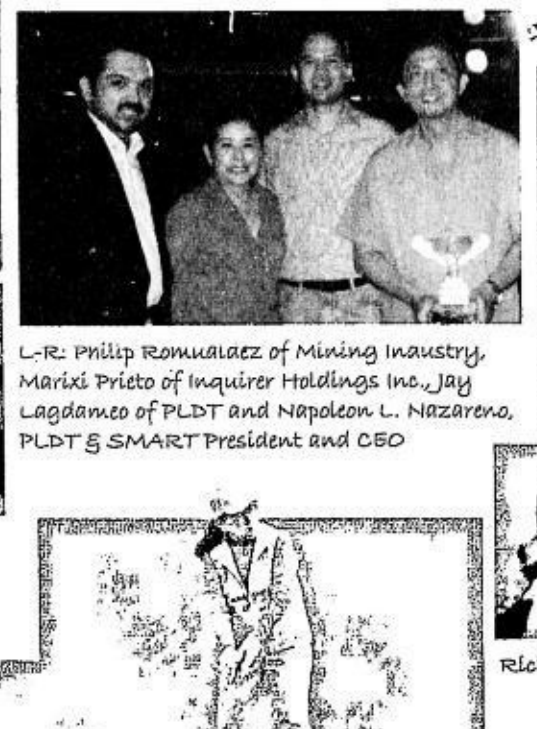
L-R: Philip Romualdez of Mining Inaustry, Marixi Prieto of Inquirer Holdings Inc., Jay Lagdameo of PLDT and Napoleon L. Nazareno, PLDT & SMART President and CEO

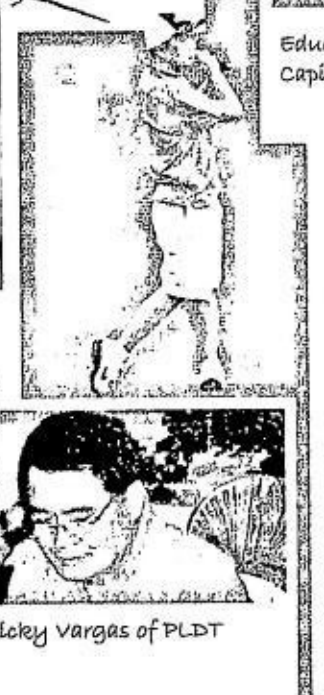
Bill Trambley of NTT America

Ricky Vargas of PLDT

L-R: Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT & SMART Chairman, Toyota Vios winner Peter Coyiuto of First Guarantee Life Assurance Co., Napoleon L. Nazareno, PLDT & SMART President and CEO, and Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group







All golf tournaments should start like this, and all early-bird golfers should be as eager as these. It turns out that every player for the 2007 MVP Pasasalamat Golf Tournament trooping in at 5:30am for registration was already a winner. A full Callaway golf outfit awaited registrants—from garment bags, premium shoes, t-shirts, caps, balls and even utility kits. And that was just for starters. Players then picked lots from a giant fishbowl for even more prizes. The question was, would all this loot fit in the Wack Wack lockers?

The rains had been threatening overnight and partial cloudbursts were the order of the day, but with a sign-up like that no one felt let down by the otherwise soggy play conditions. Extra moisture gave the fairways a mushier stubbornness and an unforgiving bite to the greens. Everyone furiously gunned for the vaunted hole-in-one honour and yes depending on which hole, the brand new Mercedes Benz C Class, Toyota Fortuner, Ford Focus Diesel, or Nissan X Trail were fair game. One player learned that he was just short of the cup by painful inches as the green attained the consistency of a shag carpet.

None were disheartened; it still pays to be a trusted PLDT business partner and a golfer worth your salt. Even as the MVP Cup is known as a "friendly" tournament, serious prizes were still to be won; and that made for

OVER ROLLS OF PECKING

The Women on Top Discuss Life

Every year, before Christmas rolls arou Pangilinan hosts what is now the most MVP Cup. The alpha-male Who's Wh country tee up early in the morning, so out for the MVP Cup awards. This year brass led by Napoleon L. Nazareno, PL Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP and Head congratulated the winners and the golfe annual event, at a fun filled dinner-sho

Transformed into a hall of re Country Club's Ballroom, full of crims but otherwise cheerful day on the links

Then a surprise: in walked a ladies like, Marife Zamora and Karen Batungbacal of ICT Group, Alicia Mor Noya Terrado of Headstrong Philippine ing, joining the party after their own ve at the Spa for a well deserved break fr The non-golfing executives were treate Management Head Kat Luna-Abelarde spread. After that, they were led to the heavenly massage and aesthetic treat

The women behind powerful scents of lavender and ylang-ylang oils treatments were given to these classy l edly they emerged all the more calm, p couldn't be more thankful as well. Tim addition to your swings, gentlemen?

Alfredo Pacho of Pricon Micro Electronics · Bert Lina of Airfreight 2100 · Tatsu Kono of PLDT · Francisco Alba Jr. of Prudential Life · Rafael Perez de Tagle of Fil-Estate · Manuel Quiogue of GMA Marketing and Productions · Rafael Rollan of Microsoft · Mike Navarette of ABS-CBN · Cirilio Magsuci of HSBC · Gavin Reid of Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. · Rico Brizuela of Airlift Asia · Jason Cavo of Harte-Hanks

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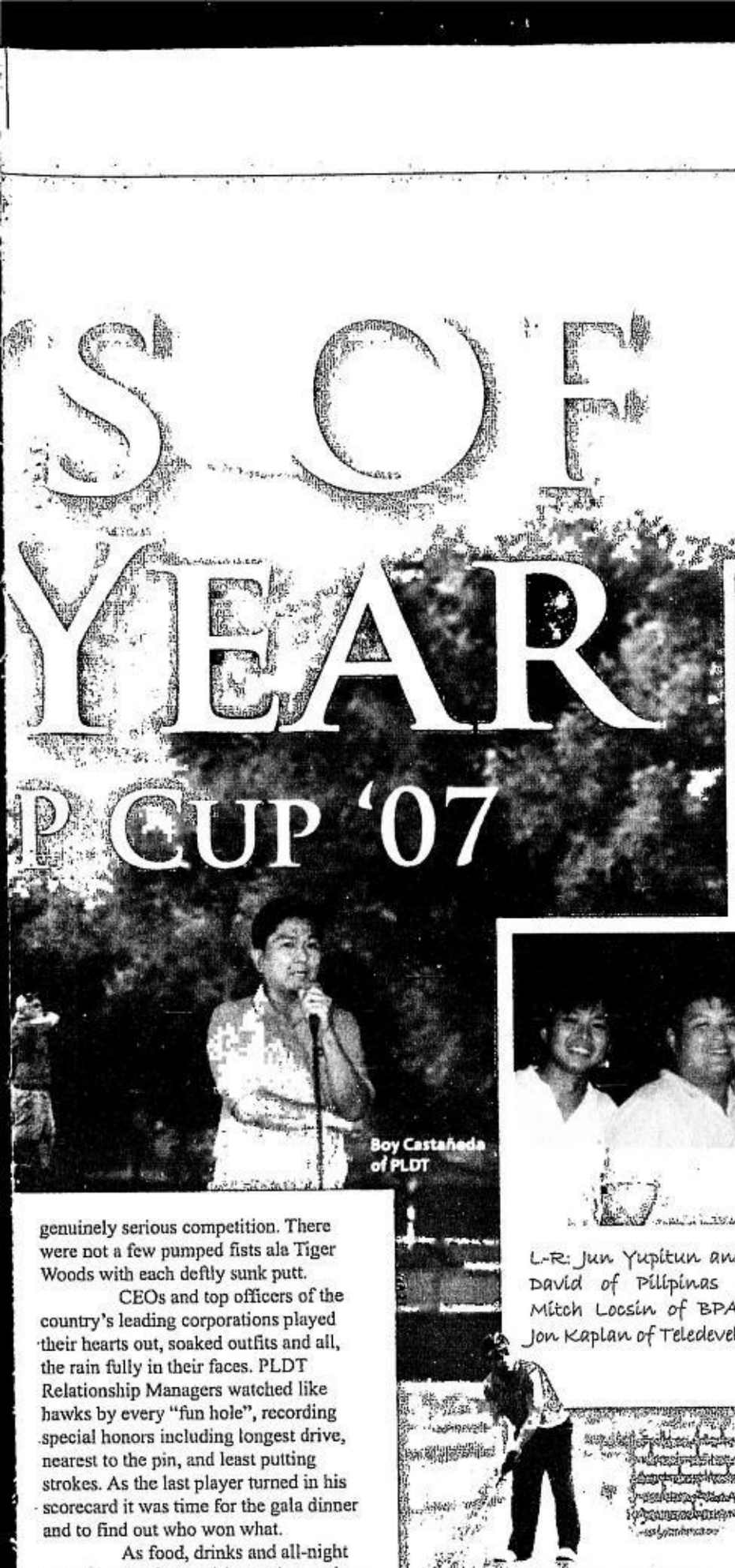
S OF YEAR

P CUP '07



Boy Castañeda of PLDT

genuinely serious competition. There were not a few pumped fists ala Tiger Woods with each deftly sunk putt.

CEOs and top officers of the country's leading corporations played their hearts out, soaked outfits and all, the rain fully in their faces. PLDT Relationship Managers watched like hawks by every "fun hole", recording special honors including longest drive, nearest to the pin, and least putting strokes. As the last player turned in his scorecard it was time for the gala dinner and to find out who won what.

As food, drinks and all-night entertainment kept spirits up, it was time for the unveiling. Even as no hole-in-one cars were won, there was still the matter of both a Toyota Vios won by Peter Coyiuto, President of First Guarantee Life Assurance Co., and a Hyundai Tucson won by Reynaldo Maclang of Allied Banking Corporation up for the raffle. Other prizes included Philips 42 inch LCD TVs, X irons with golf bags from Callaway, DVD players, Nintendo Wiis, Nokia N92s, and Callaway drivers. Laughs and cheers boomed through the hall with each announcement.

As the evening wound down, all ears perked up at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club Grand Ballroom. No less than PLDT and SMART Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, namesake of this golf classic, remarked that next year's tourney will be even more grand. That means more prizes and even more heated competition, "friendly" nonetheless.

DUCK AND DIMSUM:
Out of the Board Room...

nd, PLDT Chairman Mr. Manuel V. :waited golf tourney of the year: the of the Top 500 corporations of the ne continuing through lunch to duke it . MVP and the PLDT Enterprise top DT & SMART President and CEO, f the Corporate Business Group, rs who participated at the traditional v extravaganza.

l was the Wack Wack Golf and n-clad men chilling out after a rainy all 18 holes round the fairways. parade of thoroughly relaxed power illamor of Convergy's, Karen les of John Clements & Associates, s, and Teh Opinion of Kaisa Consult- rsion of the MVP CUP- an afternoon m their hectic schedule at the office. l by PLDT Customer Relationship to the most sumptuous Chinese food nost luxurious Spa where they had a

men were soothed and relaxed amidst Only the most premium full 2-hour dies; as was most fitting. Undoubt- aceful, and content. And the men to work on massage techniques in

Dod Peralta of Philam Systems with Sonny Valdez of Accenture

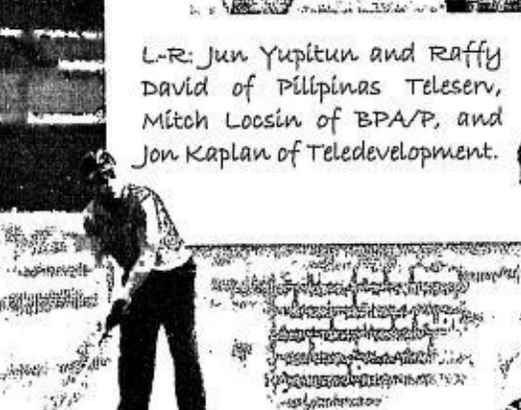
Clockwise from Top to Bottom: Kat Luna-Abelarde of PLDT, Mike Herlihy of 3M Philippines, Marife Zamora of Convergys and Noya Terrado of Headstrong Philippines

Catherine Ebert-Gray of US Embassy with Anton Lim of PLDT

Clockwise from Top to Bottom: Irene de Guzman and Kat Luna-Abelarde of PLDT, with David Lyons and Macy Saluda of Coca-Cola Bottlers

L-R: Jun Yupitun and Raffy David of Pilipinas Teleserv, Mitch Locsin of BPA/P, and Jon Kaplan of Teledevelopment.

L-R: Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group, Raj Shergil of Tele-Tech, Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT & SMART Chairman, AJ Maralik and Maulik Parekh of Tele-Tech, and Cesar M. Enriquez, PLDT FVP & Corporate Business Operations Officer



L-R: Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group, Klaas Oreel of Alcatel-Lucent and Nerisse Ramos, PLDT FVP & Corporate Business Solutions Head

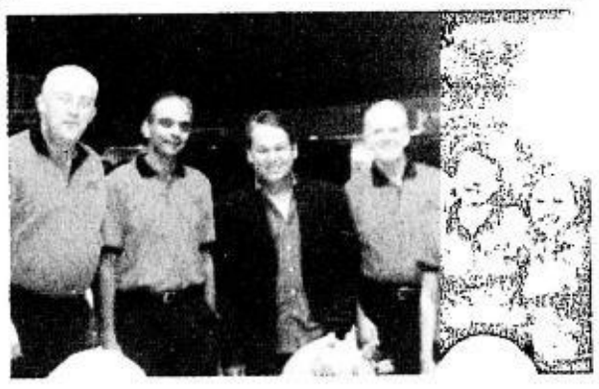
L-R: PMA's Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig and Bobby Madrid of PRU LIFE

L-R: Bert Lina and Lito Alvarez of Airfreight 2100, and Rommel Latinazo of RCBC

Pablo Soon of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club

Atty. Romero Federico Quimbo of Home Development Mutual Fund

Varun Berry of Pepsico International with Kat Luna-Abelarde of PLDT



L-R: Baring Olffson, Kandy Anand of Coca-Cola, Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group, David Lyons and Macy Saluda of Coca-Cola, and Irene de Guzman of PLDT

Bong Leal of Cypress semiconductors

Nilo Cruz of British Telecoms, and Jimmy Camacho of Meralco

L-R: Cesar Enriquez, PLDT FVP & Corporate Business Operations Officer, Bong Borja of People Support and Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT & SMART Chairman

Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group with Macaric Te of Philippine National Bank

L-R: Bobot delos Trinos of Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. and Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group

Jose Nograles of Landbank of the Philippines

el Capistrano of achoria Bank | Larry Llamzon of DHL | Jovy Hernandez of PLDT | Jojo Mendiola of SM | Jeffrey Lim of SM Investments | Luigi Lopa of PLDT | Jennifer Lai of Intel | Jim Evans of Telus Ambergris | Ezekiel Delgado of Verizon | Chito del Rosario of GE Philippines, Inc. | James Velasquez of IBM Philippines

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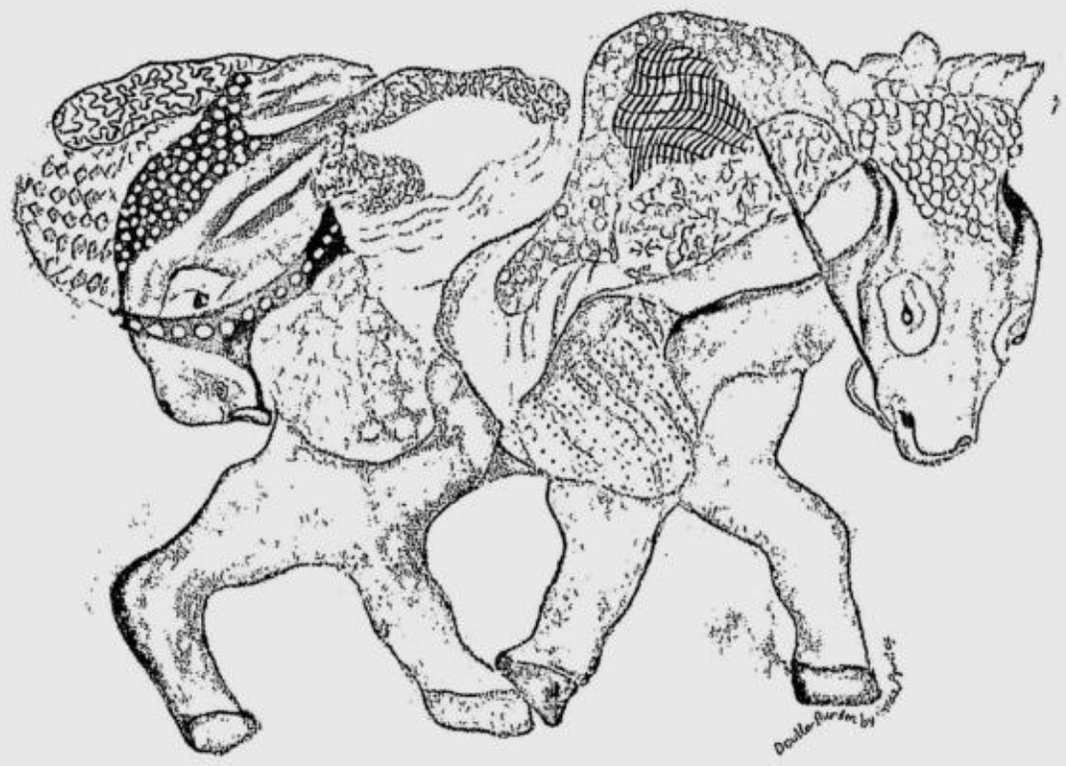


DOUBLE BURDEN
Breadwinner and housekeeper too

Animal rights: *A graphic essay*

Art work by Gilda Cordero-Fernando

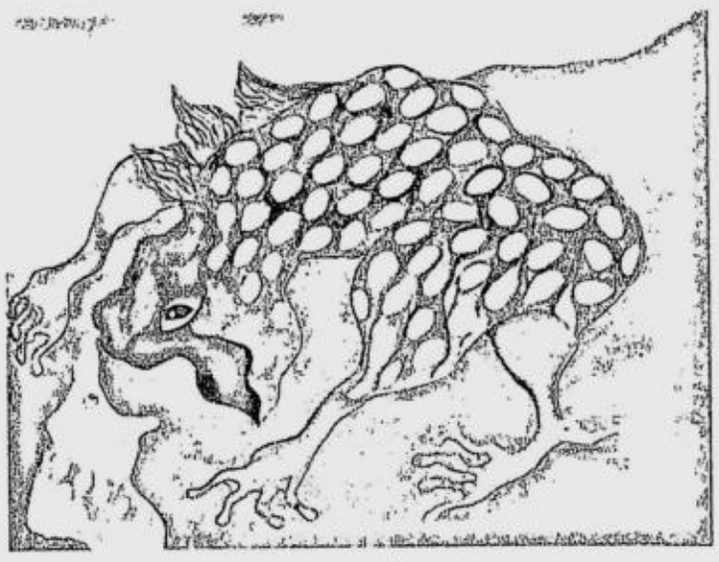
WOMEN'S ISSUES (YES, SAME OLD ONES).

Dedicated to Abanse Pinay, Gabriela, Kasibulan and Democratic Socialist Women's Group of the Philippines (whose DADENG AND SUPER B comics was its inspiration)

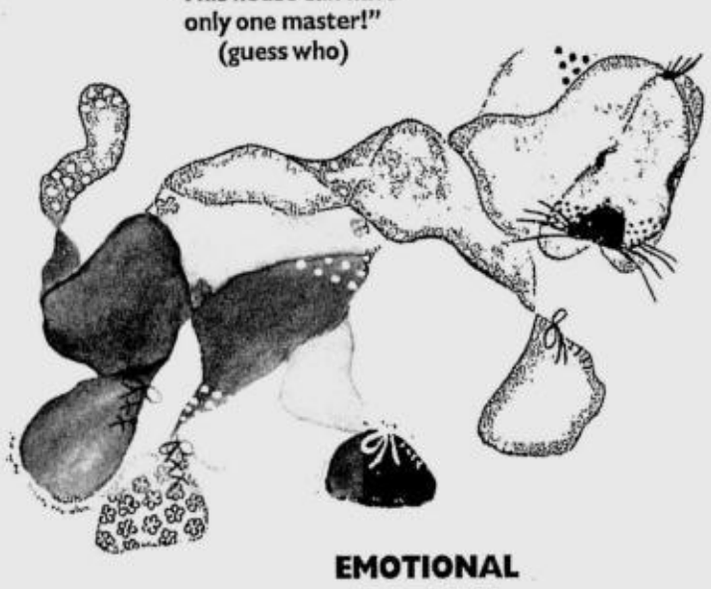
And to Lorna Kapunan, Rina Jimenez David, Beth Angsioco, Katrina Legarda, Anna Sarabia, Brenda Fajardo, Fe Arriola, Maita Gomez, Rochit Tanedo, Aida Maranan and all our other fighting sisters.

P.S. These and my more pleasant, cause-less paintings will be in a one-woman exhibit from Jan. 6 to Jan. 31, 2008 at Le Soufflé, Rockwell Center, Makati.

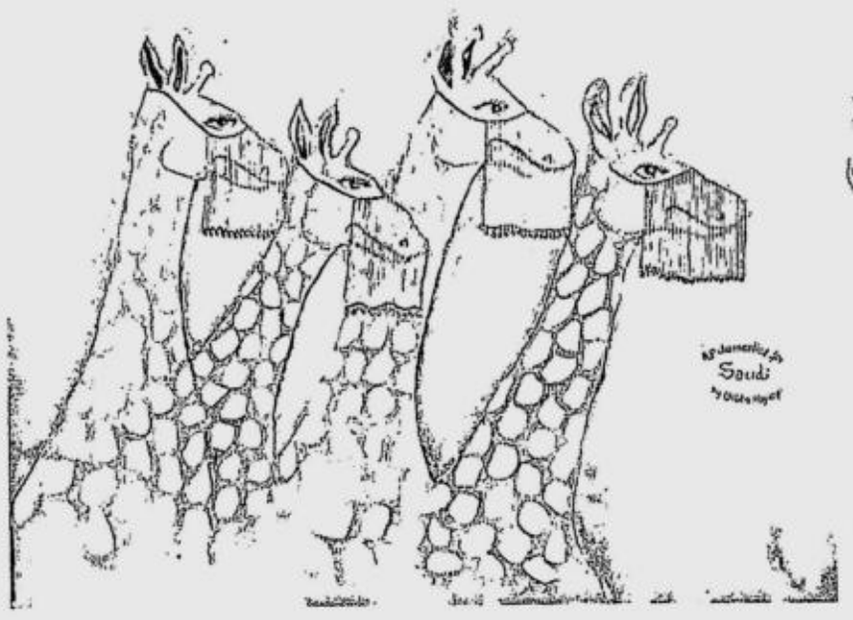
THE PATRIARCHY
Males are superior to females and should make all the decisions.



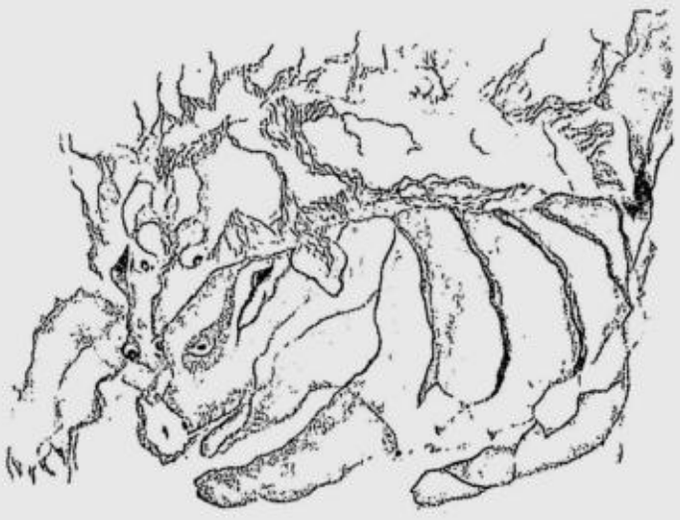
VERBAL ABUSE
"This house can have only one master!" (guess who)



EMOTIONAL BATTERY
Unappreciated Mrs. Dog goes home to mama.



DOMESTICS TO SAUDI
The right to earn a decent wage (at home *sana*!)



THE RIGHT TO ONE'S BODY
"Eleven kids and no son to carry my name?" (Gimme a break)

Saan ka ba nakatira?

– Tony Meloto, Gawad Kalinga

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Milestones

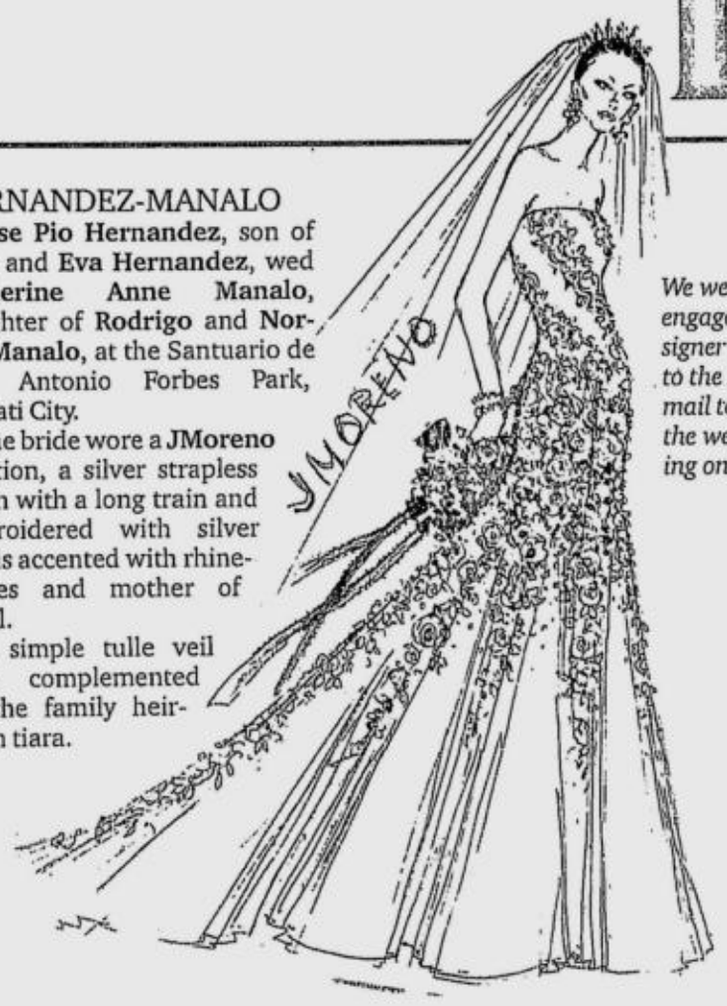
We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

HERNANDEZ-MANALO

Jose Pio Hernandez, son of **Jose** and **Eva Hernandez**, wed **Katherine Anne Manalo**, daughter of **Rodrigo** and **Norma Manalo**, at the Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City.

The bride wore a **JMoreno** creation, a silver strapless gown with a long train and embroidered with silver beads accented with rhinestones and mother of pearl.

A simple tulle veil was complemented by the family heirloom tiara.



DANCEL-ZULUETA

Eric Dancel, son of **Edilberto** and **Victoria Dancel**, will wed **Gracielle Zulueta**, daughter of **Cesar** (deceased) and **Gloria Zulueta**, on Dec. 15 at the St. Peter Parish Church along Commonwealth Avenue, QC. Reception will follow at the Albergus (La Piazza) Restaurant, Capitol Hills Drive, Old Balara, Diliman, QC.

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Experts Talk about

DIABETES NUTRITION

A lifestyle disease like diabetes, is associated with the lack of self-restraint on the part of the diabetes sufferer.

About 90% of people who have the disease develop Type 2 or adult-onset diabetes because of too much food and drink, lack of physical activity and stress.

WHAT ARE THE 3 HEALTH RISKS?

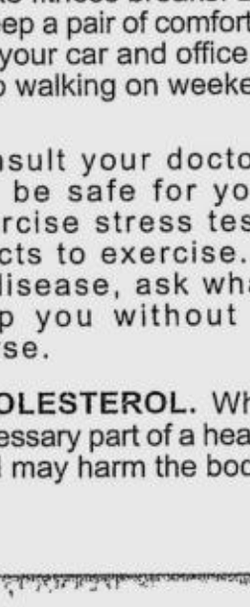
BLOOD SUGAR. Maintaining blood sugar within the normal level is the first step in preventing the onset of diabetes. Since food intake affects blood sugar levels, proper diet is considered the cornerstone of diabetes management. This doesn't mean depriving yourself of your favorite food; rather, it only requires making sensible and healthy food choices.

According to Dr. Estrellita Fernando-Lopez, Vice-President of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, Philippine Chapter, "Nutrition is very important because people with diabetes need to be highly motivated to follow their diet. Fiber should be amply supplied to increase satiety and to improve glycemic control."

*Dr. Estrellita Fernando-Lopez
Vice-President, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists*

"Nutrition is very important because people with diabetes need to be highly motivated to follow their diet."

BODY WEIGHT. It is important to maintain the appropriate weight. According to Dr. Editha I. Arceo-Dalisay, Endocrinologist and Vice-President of the Philippine Diabetes Association, "The increase in the number of people with diabetes is mainly due to the changes in our lifestyle. There is a tendency to consume a high-calorie, high-saturated fat and low-fiber diet, coupled with physical inactivity. Healthy eating habits are fundamental in the care of people with diabetes and those who are at risk in developing diabetes." Physical activity is equally important. Aside from helping you control your weight, exercise is also known to lower your blood pressure, strengthen your heart and improve your cholesterol levels.



Dr. Editha I. Arceo-Dalisay, Endocrinologist, Vice-President, Philippine Diabetes Association

"There is a tendency to consume a high-calorie, high-saturated fat and a low-fiber diet, coupled with physical inactivity."

Here are some exercise tips one can do everyday:
- Walk, cycle, jog or skate to your destination.
- Park your car farther away from where you're going.
- Get on or off the bus several blocks away.
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator.
- Take fitness breaks. Do desk exercises.
- Keep a pair of comfortable walking or running shoes in your car and office.
- Go walking on weekends.

Consult your doctor about which activities will be safe for you to do. Ask to take an exercise stress test to see how your heart reacts to exercise. If the tests show signs of disease, ask what physical activities will help you without making your condition worse.

CHOLESTEROL. While "good" cholesterol is a necessary part of a healthy diet, too much of the "bad" kind may harm the body.

Excess amounts of saturated animal fats from red meat and dairy products, as well as trans fats or hydrogenated oils from commercially-prepared baked goods, can clog up the arteries.

Essential fats that should be part of a healthy diet include monounsaturated fat (MUFA) and polyunsaturated fat (PUFA). According to research, monounsaturated fats tend to lower LDL (bad cholesterol) levels and can promote cardiovascular health. Major sources of such oils are plants and sea foods. Olive, canola, avocado and sunflower oil are also high in monounsaturated fatty acids.[1]

*Ana T. Dugang, Chief Dietician
Makati Medical Center*

ROLE OF NUTRITION IN DIABETES CARE

Diabetics should adopt a healthy lifestyle by eating a proper diet, exercising regularly, maintaining the ideal body weight, destressing regularly and not smoking. For added convenience, take nutrition that is especially designed for people with diabetes. Ana T. Dugang, Chief Dietician of Makati Medical Center, says that "an adequate amount of nutritional drinks will help in getting the required amounts of nutrients needed for faster recovery since it already contains sufficient amounts of calories, vitamins, minerals and fiber."

"An adequate amount of nutritional drinks will help in getting sufficient amounts of nutrients."

[1] **Ref: E. Mayfield,** A Consumer's Guide to Fats (U.S. Food and Drug Administration,Rockville, MD, 1999)

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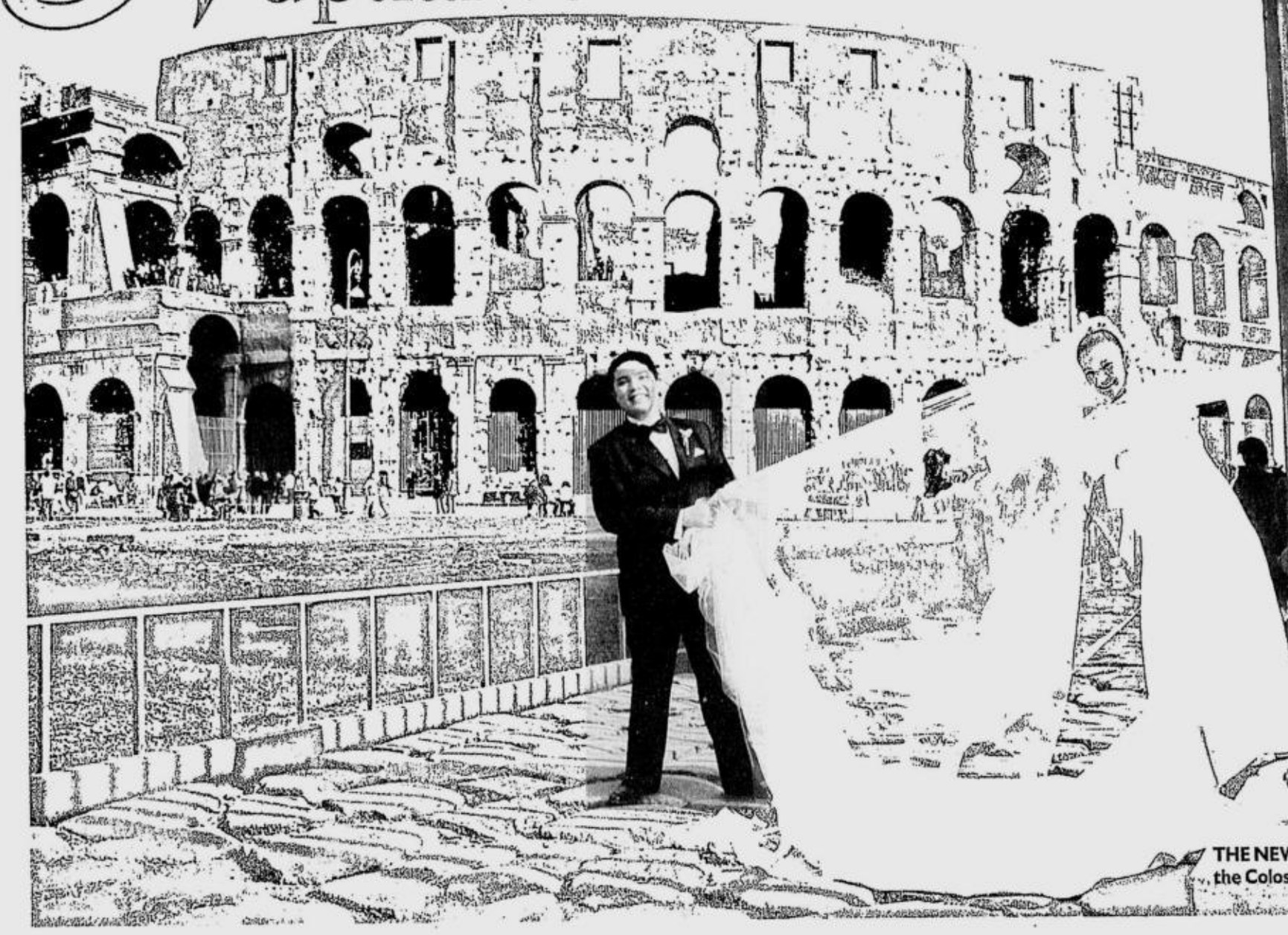
GARCIA-LUCERO
Nuptial vows at the Vatican



THE NEWLYWEDS at the Colosseo

OUTSIDE the Basilica

By Cecilia S. Beltran
Contributor

AT THE CLOSE OF THE LUCERO-Garcia wedding reception in Rome, retired president of the Coca-Cola Export Corp. Antonio R. Lucero Jr. told the guests: "When I heard my daughter say she wanted to get married at the Vatican, I thought she was dreaming."

But the dream did become a reality.

To the left of Vatican City, a Filipino entourage in deep violet, along with groom Gregory D.P. Garcia, an executive of Filipinas Palm Oil Inc., waited for the arrival of the bride, Audra Lucero, a board director and marketing head of Hairministry Inc., Philippine distributor of TIGI Bed Head and Davines.

Greg's flawlessly tailored tuxedo by Inno Sotto matched the elegance of the surroundings.

Tourists gaped through the thick tapestry that separated the area from St. Peter's Cathedral where the remains of the Catholic church's first pope lie.

Organ music drew their attention and, upon seeing flower girl Sophia Sabine Beltran prancing about in her Inno Sotto gown, they started taking pictures.

Fr. Gregory S. Apparcel, officiating priest, joked, "You've got your own paparazzi." Sophia is the daughter of the bride's childhood friend, Ronnie Beltran, global marketing director for Avon Cosmetics.

At 10:30 a.m., the maid of honor, Ma. Elena Cristina D. Maningat, Philippine vice consul in New York, alerted the guests to the arrival of the bride.

As the gates opened to welcome the entourage, the angelic voice of an Italian soprano filled the cathedral wing.

The bride walked down the aisle in a beaded bolero with a large bow at the back. The bolero was Sotto's innovative cover for the spaghetti-strapped gown, which was not allowed in the church.

With the morning light streaming through the cathedral windows, she walked towards her future husband.

Fr. Gregory made the guests feel the solemnity of being wed in the historic church.

Audra's cousin, Royce Alexander L. Piczon, a Philippine Airlines 747 training captain, served as lector. US-based consultant Lisa Aurea Alegria S. Ledesma did the first reading and Rene A. Ledesma Jr., Manual Magazine's editor in chief, the second.

The bride's aunts from the US, Vicenta L. Gonzales and Josephine R. Lucero, made the offering.

The Vatican-approved photographers were very respectful as the couple exchanged heartfelt vows. They were hardly noticed. But the guests could not resist taking pictures. The bride, the groom and the incredible interiors of St. Peter's Cathedral were too beautiful to leave only to one's memory.

After the wedding, guests proceeded to Les Etoiles at the Atlante Star Hotel in Rome while the newlyweds had their pictures taken in various Vatican sites.

With a breathtaking view of Vatican City, guests drank champagne. Some of the children stared at the three-tiered marzipan bridal cake.

Ledesma hosted the reception with wholesome humor that everyone enjoyed. Les Etoiles served risotto with Roman courgettes and courgette flowers before serving the veal rib eye with mushrooms, along with champagne and wine.

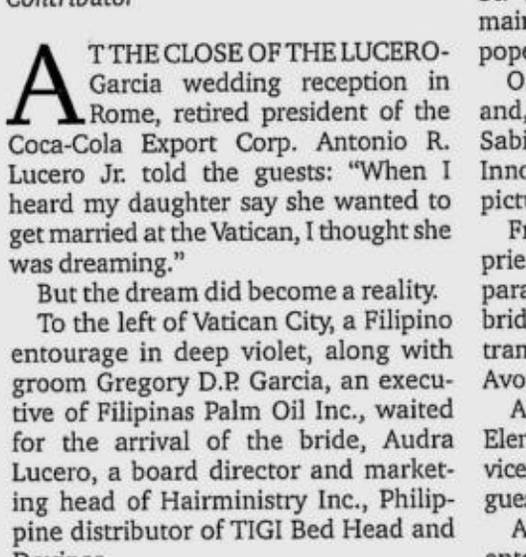
The wedding cake, with its three-layer cream filling and chocolate bits, was a wonderful way to cap the meal.

Bringing the reception to a close, Audra's father expressed regret that his late wife, Elsa Maningat, was not able to see Audra and Greg married in the world's largest cathedral. The speech left the guests silent and tearful.

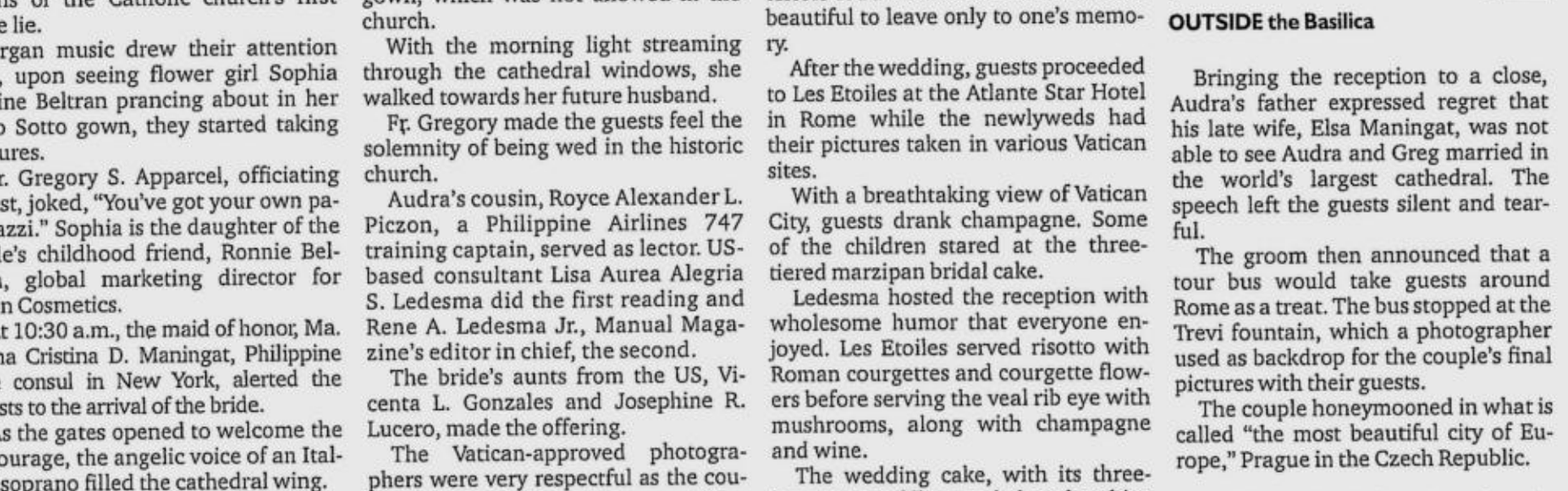
The groom then announced that a tour bus would take guests around Rome as a treat. The bus stopped at the Trevi fountain, which a photographer used as backdrop for the couple's final pictures with their guests.

The couple honeymooned in what is called "the most beautiful city of Europe," Prague in the Czech Republic.

Cecilia Sanchez Beltran is a columnist for the Prague Post.



ANTONIO Lucero Jr. walks his daughter to the altar.



Milestones

ARSENIO-JAVIER

Genesis R. Arsenio, son of engineer **Armando** and **Arlyn Arsenio**, will wed **Katrina E. Javier**, daughter of **Dulcisimo** and **Agripina Javier**, on Dec. 15, at Immaculate Conception Parish (Antipolo Cathedral). The bride will wear an all-white duchess satin with overlapped front draping, a bouffant skirt and a 2 ½-meter cathedral train with crystal glass beads in dainty floral pattern designed by **Leonard Co**.

CARPESO-LIMBAUAN

Engineer **Rodolfo E. Carpeso, Jr.**, son of **Rodolfo** and **Filomena Carpeso**, will wed **Shirley Y. Limbauan**, daughter of **Roberto** and **Rita Limbauan**, on Dec. 15 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Reception will follow at the Manila Diamond Hotel.

PEREZ-CARLOS

Enrico T. Perez, son of **Carlito** and **Perlita T. Perez**, will wed **Annaliza A. Carlos**, daughter of **Josue** and **Lerma Carlos**, on Dec. 21 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Villa Immaculada, Intramuros, Manila.

BERNARDO-MANZANERO

Richard Nelson A. Bernardo, son of **Rodrigo** and **Nerisa Bernardo**, will exchange vows with **Cherry Sarina Manzanero**, daughter of engineer **Sancito** and **Irna Manzanero**, at Mt. Carmel Parish on Dec. 14. Reception will follow at Oasis.

GUERRERO-HENSON

Zoilan Guerrero, son of engineer **Zoilo** and **Corazon Guerrero**, will wed Dr. **Monet Henson**, daughter of Col. **Ramon** (deceased) and **Alicia Henson**, on Dec. 14 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City. **Joey Samson** designed the bridal gown.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Chapel in a bank

THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF Guadalupe has been at Tower II of the Equitable PCIBank building on HV de la Costa Street in Makati since 1985.

A project of past bank presidents Antonio Ozaeta and Placido Mapa Jr., its construction was funded by the bank for its clients and employees.

Eventually, the public was also able to hear Mass in the chapel.

Although Ozaeta credits Mapa, an Opus Dei supernumerary, for the idea of a chapel, the inspiration to dedicate it to the Virgin of Guadalupe came from him after a visit to Mexico.

Father Dodero, a Mexican architect-priest, designed the structure. The newly ordained priest, Fr. Claro Matt Garcia, became its first chaplain in 1985. Now a monsignor, he remains chaplain.

Jaime Cardinal Sin inaugurated the chapel the same year.

Masses are held Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Although Banco de Oro has taken over Equitable PCIBank, the chapel remains open.

When I finally saw the chapel for the first time in November, I was overwhelmed. Becky Torres, senior vice president and chief of staff of the bank president, brought me down from Bridge Café.

In front of the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I whispered my prayers. Devotees will gather here on Dec. 12, her feast day, for the fiesta Mass at 12 noon to be said by Monsignor Garcia.

Miracle

Maritess Bautista, vice president for operations risk management and chapel overseer, can testify to the miraculous intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Serving as a lector when the chapel opened in 1985, Maritess prayed for a second child. Her first daughter was already 5, and she had a miscarriage.

After two years, Maritess had another daughter then two sons.

Memorabilia

"Miracle of the Roses".depicts the culmination of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It shows visionary Juan Diego presenting the bishop proof (roses) from the Virgin.

Thus, in honor of the Virgin, a cathedral was built on the site where she appeared to Juan Diego. Get a copy of this rare memorabilia now! Call Mercy Paulino at 8407000 loc. 2639 or visit the Chaplain's Office.

OUR Lady of Guadalupe in the Chapel of PCIB-Equitable (now Banco de Oro) in Tower II on HV de la Costa Street, Makati

'We are here'

When Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan greeted Our Lady of Piat at the steps of the Manila Cathedral during the recent grand Marian procession, members of the Devotees of the Nuestra Señora de Piat Foundation gathered around him and said in Ilocano, "*Adda kami, Apo* (We are here, Apo)." It meant they were there for the Virgin.

For the first time, I waited for the Virgin to come and walked in the procession with Auntie Ching Taguinod. There were more than 75 *carrozas* bearing the different titles of the Virgin Mary. Gen. Edgar Aglipay and his wife Marinette walked with members of the Piat Foundation board. Bobby Caballero, author of "Yena Tam Ngamin (Mother of Us All)" was in Fort Santiago before the procession. The Callueng family supervised the dressing up of the *carroza*. Devotees from Pakil, Laguna, carried the image of Nuestra Señora de Turumba. It seemed like the whole town danced and sang "Basta Birhen."

Devotees from Cavite City brought the icon of Our Lady of Soledad of Porta Vaga. Father John, a military chaplain, and Fr. Vir Mendoza headed the devotees.

Most of the people I saw were old friends of the late Tony Nazareno whose devotion to the Virgen de Soledad inspired him to organize the Tricentennial of the enthronement of the image by Juan de Oliva. The 30th anniversary of the canonical coronation will be marked in 2008.

The Sisters of Mary brought their students from Girlstown and Boystown to walk in the procession for the Virgin of the Poor. Mila Dolores, who wrote the book about her, has kept her commitment to pay for the rent of the *carroza* every year. To understand her fervor, get her book at National Book Store.

Scriptwriter and theater director Francis Villacorta wrote and staged a play on the apparitions of the Virgin of the Poor.

Celebration

The Hermana Mass at 2 p.m. last Sunday honored the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Ramon Arguelles officiated at the Concelebrated Mass with 10 priests. The University of the East Chorale performed. Msgr. Nestor Cerbo, rector of the basilica, did the right thing in having the pipe organ repaired.

After the Mass, Brig. Gen. Joel Cabides of the Armed Forces of the Philippines got a sash as grand marshal of the procession.

Our Lady in NY

Zenaida Abbariao, vice president of the Piat Legacy Foundation in the Eastern Seaboard, wrote to say that she and Fr. Erno Diaz crowned Our Lady of Piat during a Mass in October. The choir sang "Salve Regina" while a tenor sang during the post-communion.

Caroling

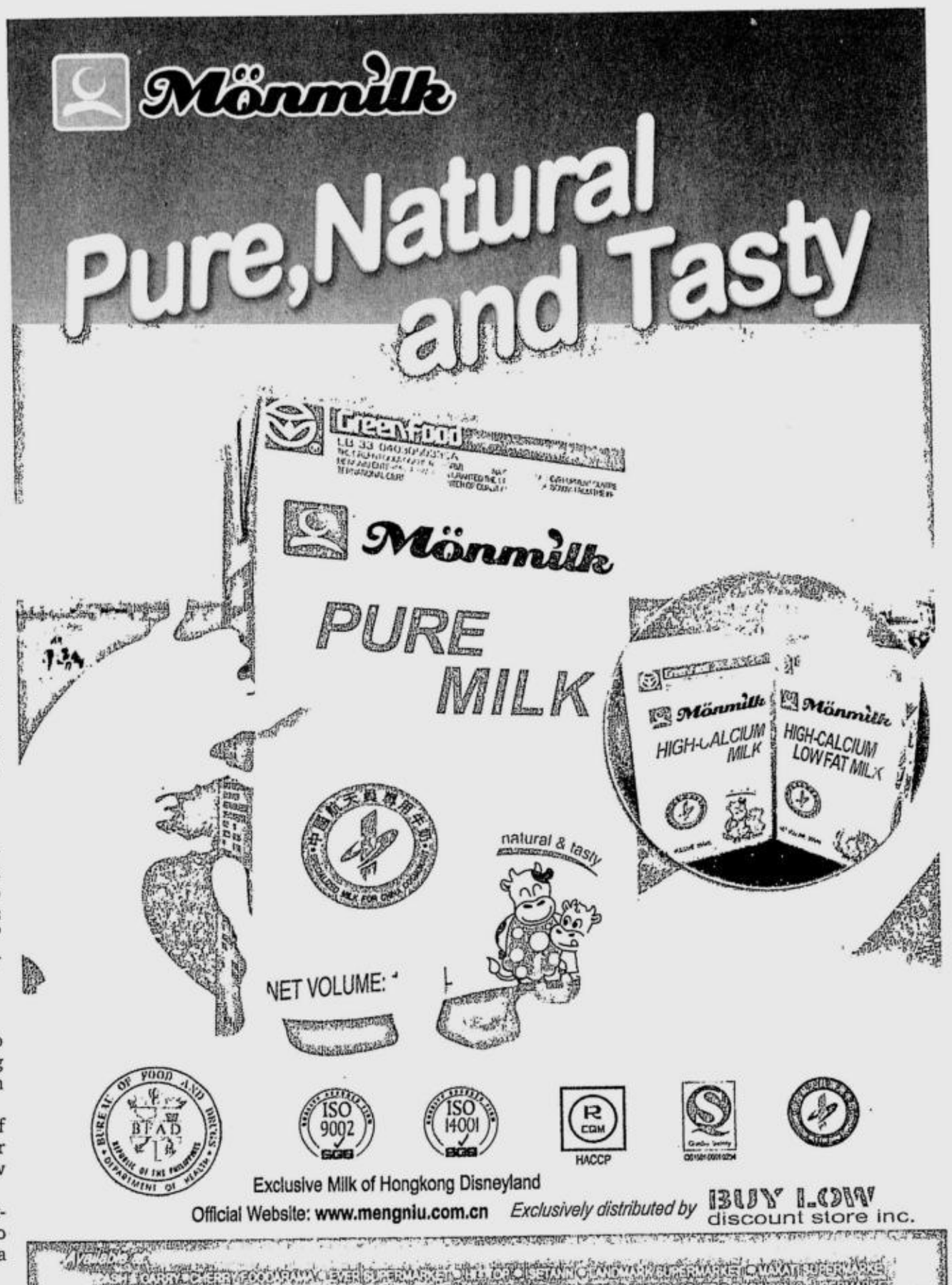
The Choir of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz on 378 Broome St. will go caroling around Little Italy and part of Chinatown on Dec. 16, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

The caroling is organized by the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz, a church designated for Filipino Catholics by the archdiocese of New York.

A formal Christmas concert will be presented by the Choir of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz on Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. A nine-day novena of Masses will be held Dec. 16-24.

Happy feast day (Dec. 13), St. Lucy, patron of good vision.

ZENY Abbariao (right) with devotees of Our Lady of Piat in the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz in New York



Pleasures of the world

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, THE Lifestyle Network goes deliciously global with its two-day Christmas bazaar, "Pleasures of the World." The country's top retailers gather under one roof to showcase the best merchandise and services at very affordable prices.

The bazaar features four-themed areas representing the fashion capitals of the world, where shoppers can enjoy a leisurely stroll as they hop from coquettish French boudoirs, to tasteful Italian-style bistros, stylish New York-inspired boutiques, to delightful Asian thrift shops. Noted brands such as Salsatrends, Cole Vintage, Modelli Italiani, Be, Leaf and Sack Clothing are among the featured retailers.

To further add to the holiday cheer, bazaar-goers shall be treated to a fashion show, fabulous raffle prizes, loads of freebies and live entertainment. This is all in partnership with the Lifestyle Network's sponsors: J&J, Neutrogena, Olay, Ponds, Carefree, Nestlé Coffeemate, Knorr, Red Ribbon and Samsung.

"Pleasures of the World" will run Dec. 15-16, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., at the SMX Convention Center (near Mall of Asia).

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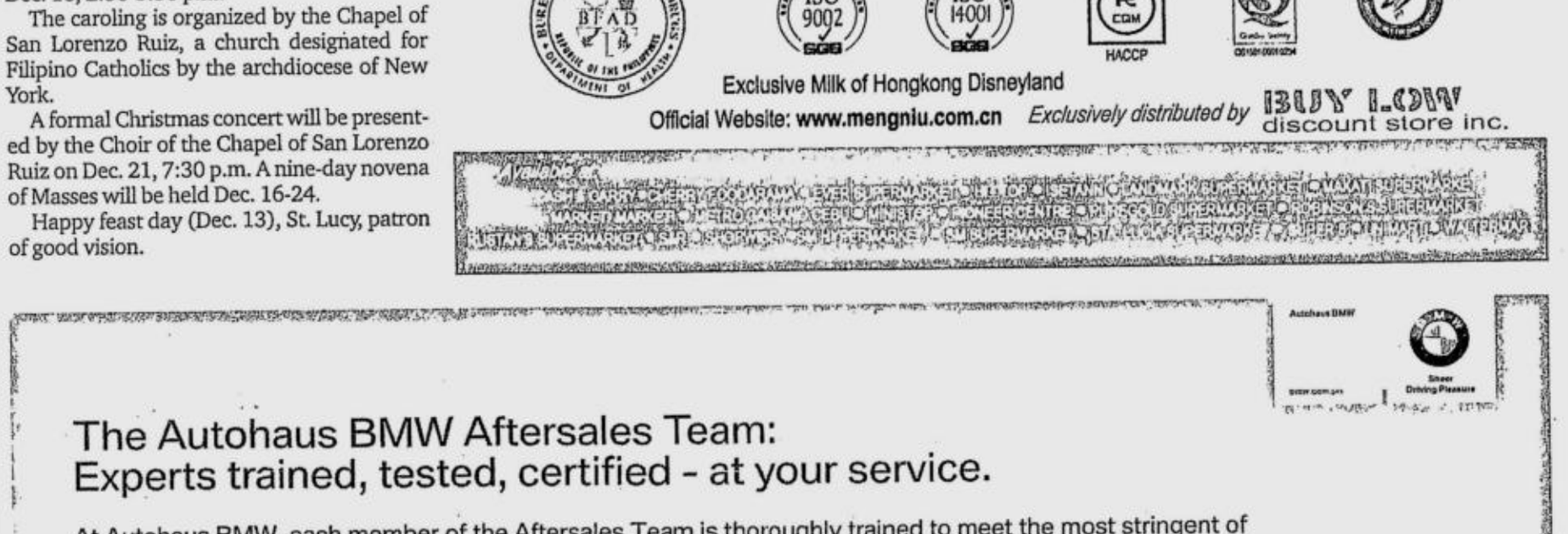

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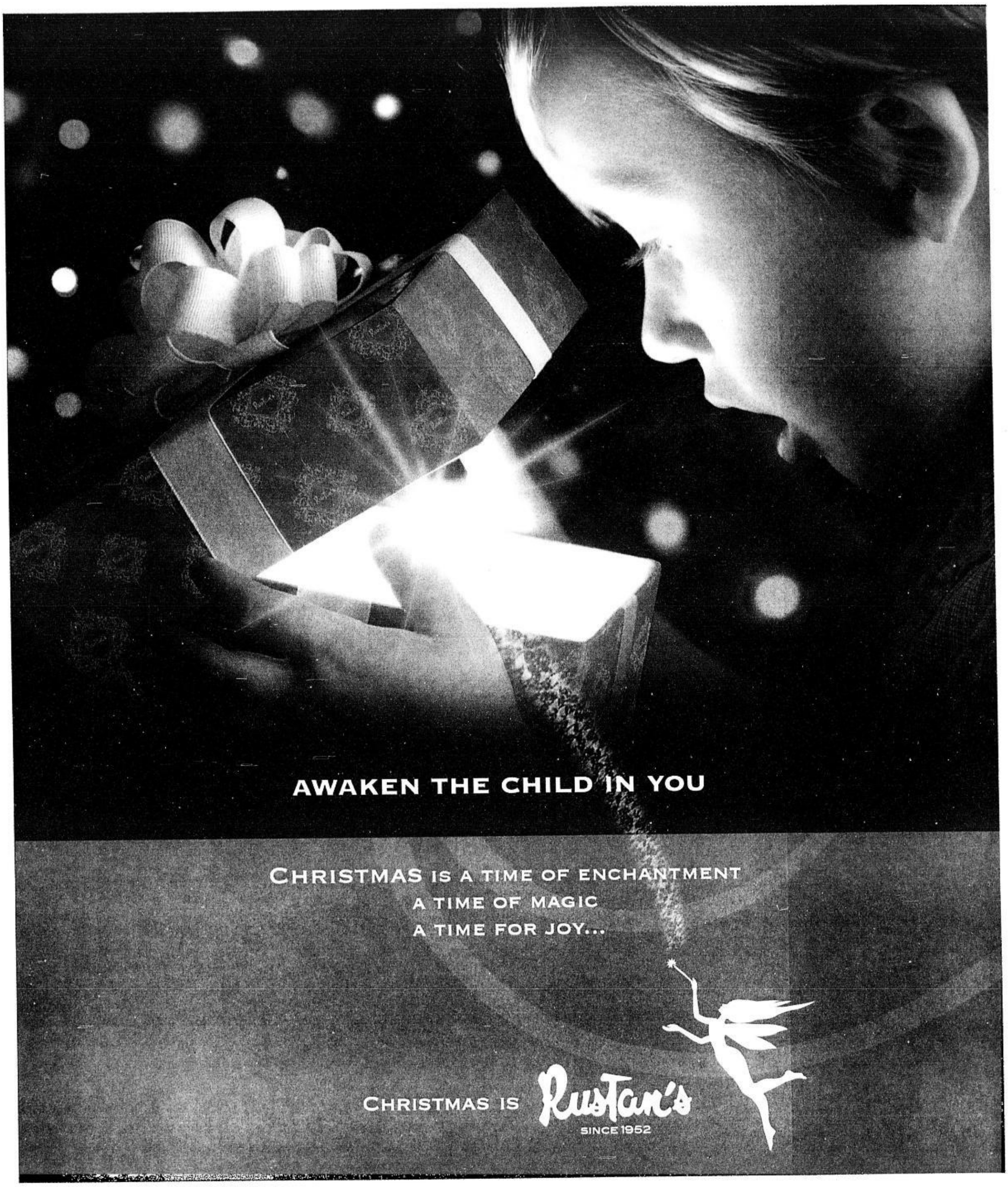

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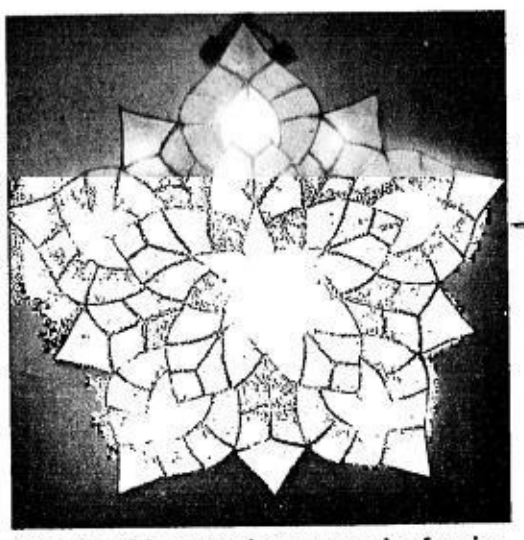
Homespun Christmas with a twist



THIS PAROL, or star lantern, made of capiz shells changes with colors in rhythmical timing.

CHRISTMAS AT KULTURA FILIPINO combines the fiesta spirit with modern holiday themes creating a dazzling tableaux of local traditions.

Traditional red and gold colors blend with earthy colors like antique brown and rust. Indigenous materials sprinkled with some glitter and shine can be used to create a country theme.

Arrangements of twigs, pinecones, dried fruit, and nuts have been added to the usual décor of fruits and blooms. The *walis tingting* has been given fascinating holiday designs.

Kultura Filipino has other things that can give a local touch to your Christmas:

• *Parol*. At Kultura, lanterns made of capiz shells are available in star or *sampaguita* shapes.

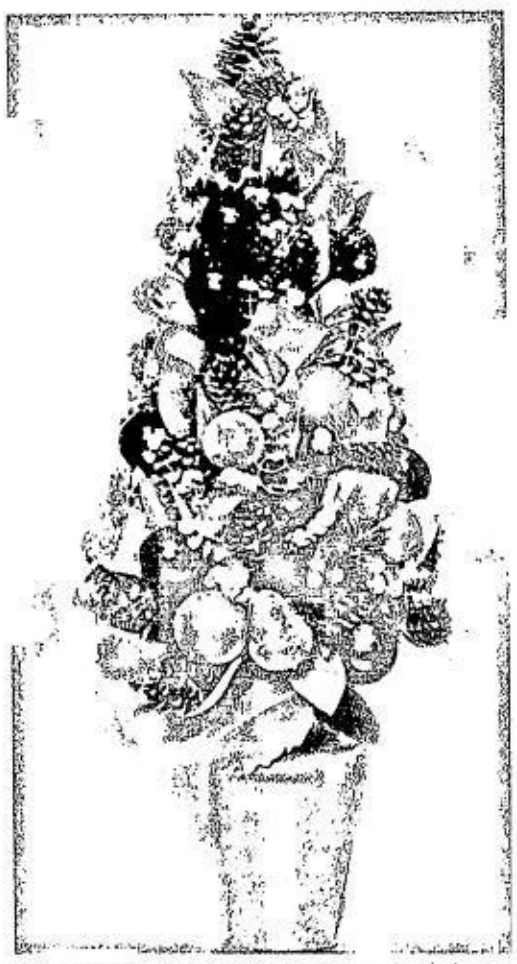
• New Old Saint Nick. Santa designs feature homespun touches. Twigs are used for the sleigh and reindeer. Woodwork is also incorporated into hand-painted resin Santas.

• Trees. Miniature trees and topiaries come in gold pots and are embellished with ribbons and Christmas baubles.

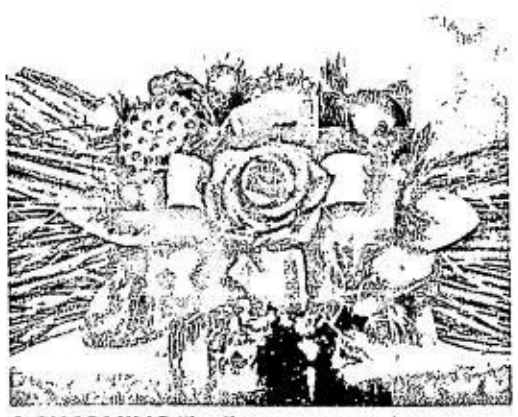
• Wreaths and garlands. Fashioned from dried flowers and leaves, fruits and nuts, ribbons, baubles, and pinecones, wreaths and garlands complete the yuletide look of your home.

• Centerpieces. Floral arrangements in metallic painted baskets, pots and vases can be the centerpieces of the holiday spread. With a little foliage, they can become interesting flower and candle groupings. Quaint and charming log arrangements with ribbons, baubles, and nature-inspired elements can add warmth to a room.

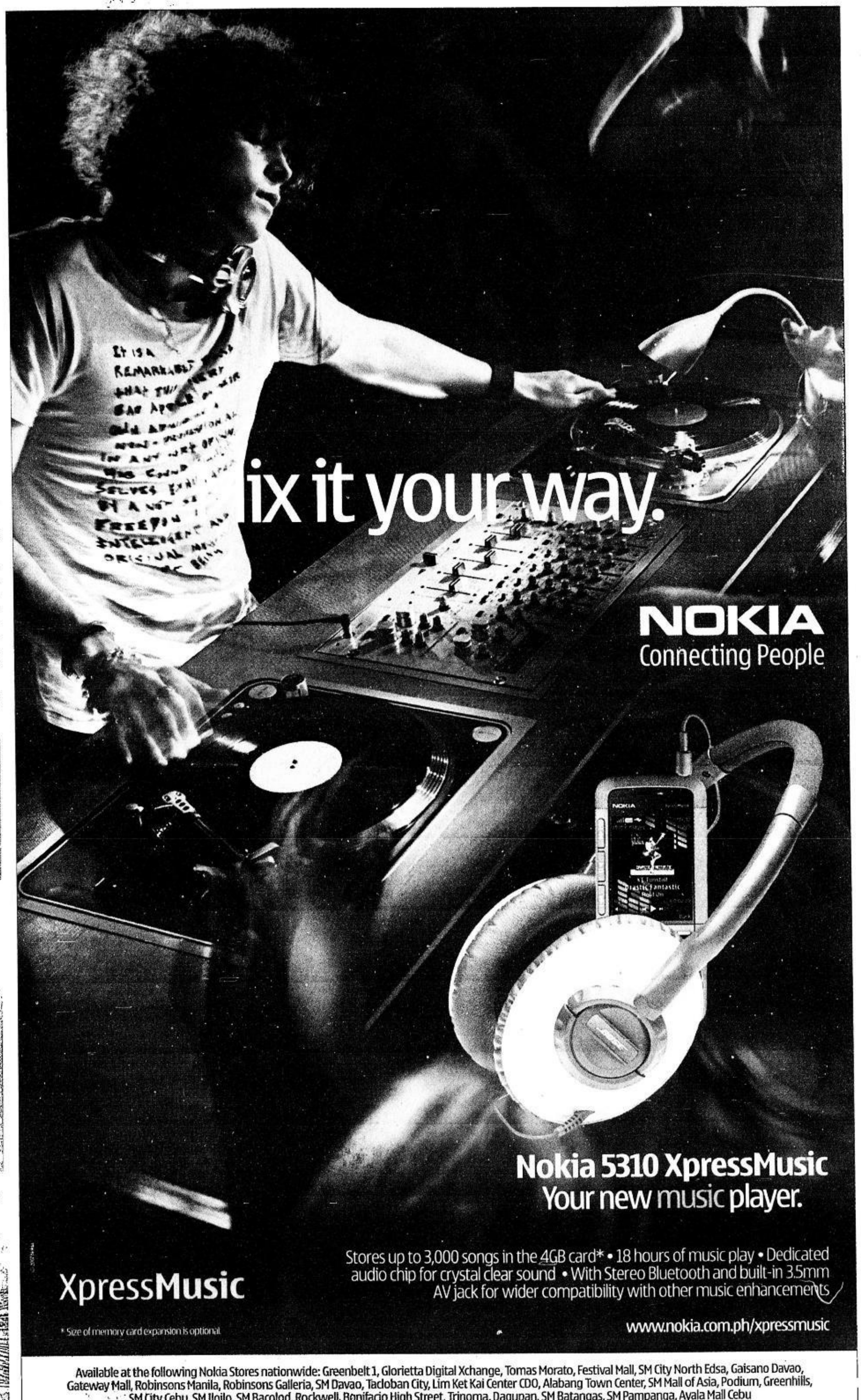
Kultura Filipino is located at SM Makati, SM Megamall, the Block in SM City North Edsa, and the SM Mall of Asia.



A POTTED miniature tree rich with pinecones, baubles, lace and ribbons adds an elegant twist to Christmas.



A CHARMING "log" arrangement is a perfect focal point in any table setting.



"OUR Father" book dads Joel Santos with daughter Maxinne, Tony Meloto, Lucio Tan, Wig Tysmans, Bayani Fernando, Guilly Luchangco, Dr. Kit Narciso and Ruben Bangayan

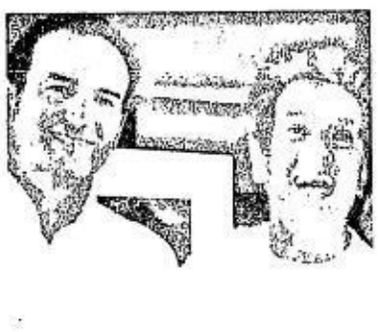
FAMILY friends Robbie and Helen Delgado and Marixi and Alex Prieto

FAMILY PHOTO. Sisters Gigi and Vivienne Tan and parents Lucio and Carmen Tan

More Christmas-gift inspirations

SEN. CHIZ Escudero and lovely wife Christine

PARENTS of great kids Vicki Belo and Atom Henares



"OUR Father" book photographer Jun de Leon with Patxi Elizalde

Concert tickets, hi-tech music headphones, books on dads and humor—there are a thousand and one gifts to give away

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

SURROUNDED BY YULETIDE décor and the strains of Christmas carols, I begin another set of gift suggestions for the "people who have everything" on everyone's Christmas List.

Would they appreciate tickets to a holiday concert? Musical generosity is always a plus; especially when the performers are good. The Philippine Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB) with its full 62-piece membership will be performing today and tomorrow at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. These young Filipino musicians will be playing jazz standards and Christmas music together with inspiring vocalists who have agreed to give guest performances.

Gift of song

First up is amazing and powerful diva **May Bayot**, who will serenade us at the PYSB's 5:30 p.m. show today. Tomorrow, Swatch crooner **Christian Bautista** will perform at 7:30 p.m. Other artists joining the ensemble are young, talented **Aria Clemente** and **Raymond Sajor**.

At one with the cause of educating and providing livelihood training for the young Filipino musicians are **Vicky Morales** and **Tintin Bersola**. Both will do emcee duties for the show, with Vicky on for tonight and Tintin tomorrow. The concert's proceeds will go to the continued music education of this young and talented group of artists.

Generous executive director **Maja Olivares-Co** is grateful to the top artists that are supporting the young artists of the PYSB and, of course, to PLDT for the countless support it has given over the years! For tickets, call the Young Musicians Development Organization at 0927-3910762 or 6131413.

Gift of stage

Another gift option is one that also supports children's theater. The Marie Eugenie Theater of the Assumption (Metta) passionately develops and encourages creativity in children by focusing on Assumption College's theater culture and arts. Breaking down barriers and realizing the full potential of the students is the top priority of Metta head **Ana Valdes-Lim**. She believes that theater gives the most intrinsic values in life, values that she wants students to posses and retain long after their Metta experience.

With Ana's artistic direction and guidance, Metta presents "Broadway 1," a celebration of Broadway's well-loved musicals performed by 140 cast members of the Assumption community together with theater professionals from Philippine Playhouse. "Broadway 1" is directed by **Paolo O'Hara**, with choreography by **Batche Tan**. It runs Dec. 13-16 at the Mother Rose Auditorium, Assumption San Lorenzo, Makati. For tickets, call 8942681 or e-mail metta_assumption@yahoo.com.ph.

Gift of music

Staying in the music genre, there's also the gift of quality sound and wireless transmissions systems. One brand that's sure to bring a smile even to the hardest to please is Sennheiser, one of the world's leading manufacturers of microphones and headphones (for details, go to www.sennheiser.com).

Axis Global is the official distributor and, together with Sennheiser, it has selected four brand ambassadors that best exemplify the Sennheiser personality. Supermodel **Christina Bartges**, triathlete **Tricia Chiongbian**, race-car driver **Angelo Barretto** and DJ **Nicky Jurado** all have extremely different lifestyles but they all share the need for quality sound.

Sennheiser's award-winning PXC 450 is a top-of-the-line, noise-canceling headphone that features both passive and active reduction of unwanted background noise, all in a practical, fold-up design. With its patented Talk-Through technology, the PXC 450 allows the user to conduct a conversation without removing the headphones.

During the many months of "Celebrity Duets," I was intrigued by the Sennheiser microphones used by top artists like **Gary V** and **Beyoncé**. I invited **Martin Low**, vice president of marketing of Sennheiser Electronic Asia, to sing a duet at their press launch at Mandarin Oriental Hotel. But I think our duet will have to wait for another party!

Gift of reading

From sights and sounds, we go to books. Coffee-table books are the best gifts because they can entertain an individual or a family for a limitless time. They are also the best choice for the corporate executive whose library needs beefing up.

Lensman **Jun de Leon** has just released his latest photo book, "Our Father," a tribute to all fathers containing a portfolio of distinguished fathers posing with their progeny, all of them from different fields and professions. My father, **Alex Prieto**, and I are proudly part of this project. Jun made it effortless for us to pose during the shoot, with Emphasis Salon's master stylist **Danny Katalbas** dramatizing my makeup and hairdo while my dad was enjoying the session.

It is interesting to note that the fathers Jun has chosen for "Our Father" have rarely been publicized. At the book launch, coincidentally on the same day as my dad's birthday, the celebrated fathers all came with the last one arriving as late as midnight. First-time publisher **Joel Santos** was pleased with the successful turnout.

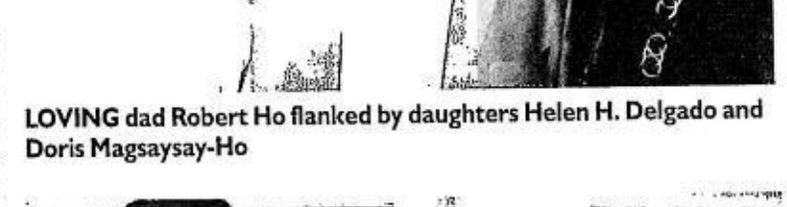
Another unique book is "Silvia's Book: An Expat's Guide to Living in Manila." The authors, **Silvia Davalos, Soledad Gonzales, Marit Yuchengco** and **Lizzie Zobel**, were inspired to write the book when Silvia asked, "Where did you get this cake?" during one of their lunches. That simple question led to an exhaustive directory of tips to great living in our city, from banks to doctors to schools to dining, with the cake question answered on page 81.

Gift of laughter

Laughter is always a great gift. "The More The Manyer: Pinoy Clichés and Other Words of Wisdumb!" is the latest pop-culture gift book from Tahanan Books. This hilarious collection of Pinoy misquotes will leave you in stitches. It also offers an instructive index of correct English idioms for the benefit of anguished, language-challenged readers. To spread laughter this season, ask for it at all leading bookstores or by calling 8137165 or e-mailing english.carabaos@gmail.com.

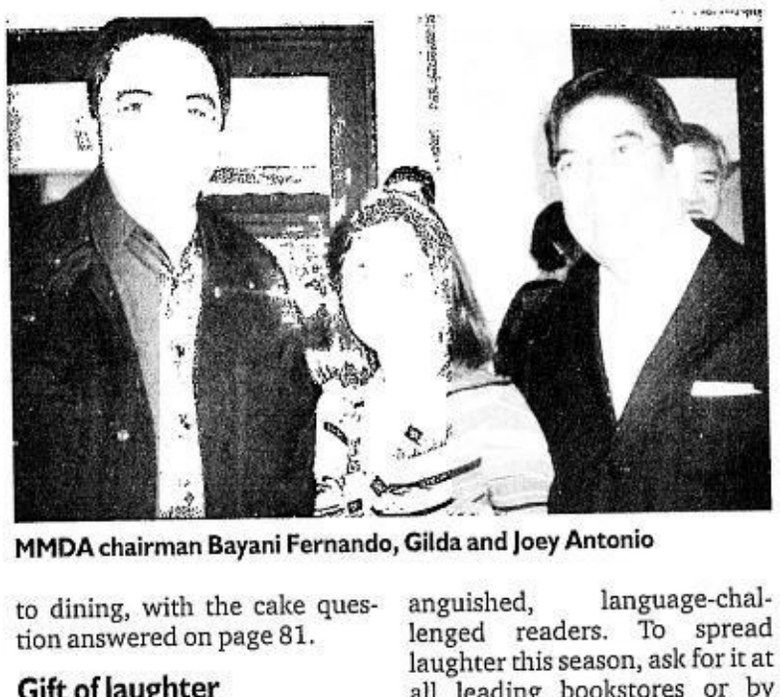
I hope all that has helped you out with your Christmas Lists. As for me, I think I am all the more confused with what to give whom!

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

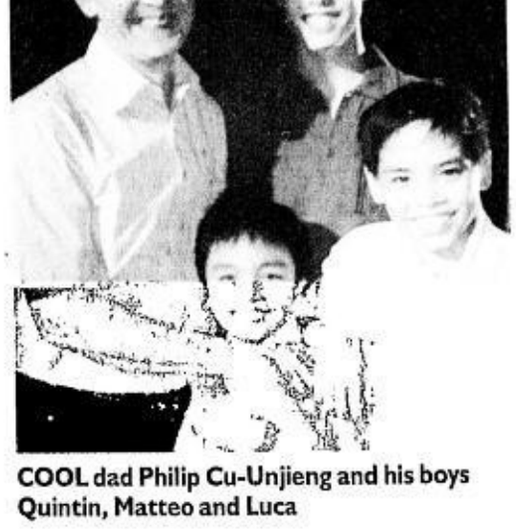


BRITISH Ambassador Peter and Jill Beckingham and Joseph Chua

LOVING dad Robert Ho flanked by daughters Helen H. Delgado and Doris Magsaysay-Ho



MMDA chairman Bayani Fernando, Gilda and Joey Antonio

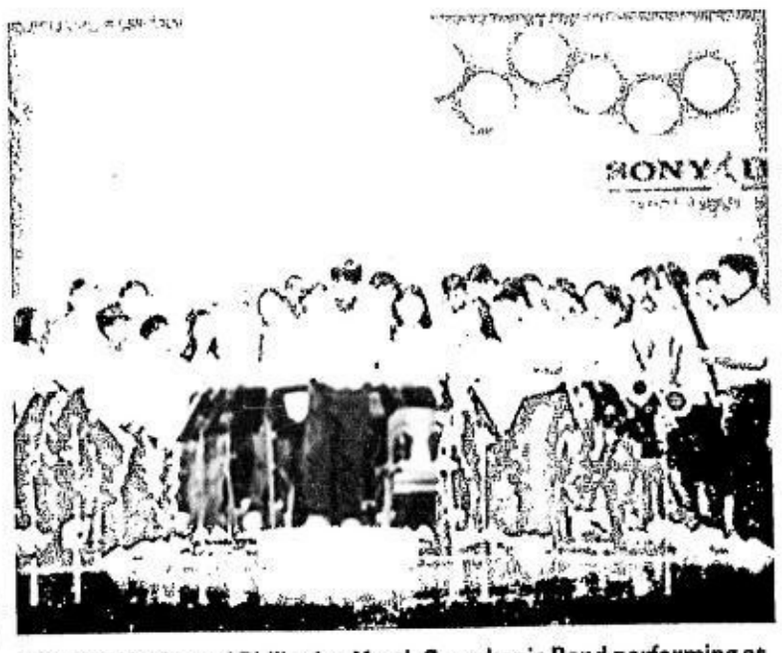


COOL dad Philip Cu-Unjieng and his boys Quintin, Matteo and Luca

METTA driving force Ana Valdes-Lim

ASSUMPTION College theater students in Metta's "Miracles"

METTA production of original musical



THE VERY talented Philippine Youth Symphonic Band performing at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC Plaza

Invest *in* learning

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

CHRISTINE BERSOLA-BABAO MAKES every mother-child experience an opportunity for learning. She teaches her toddler Antonia the names of people and foods, and to my delight, basic counting.

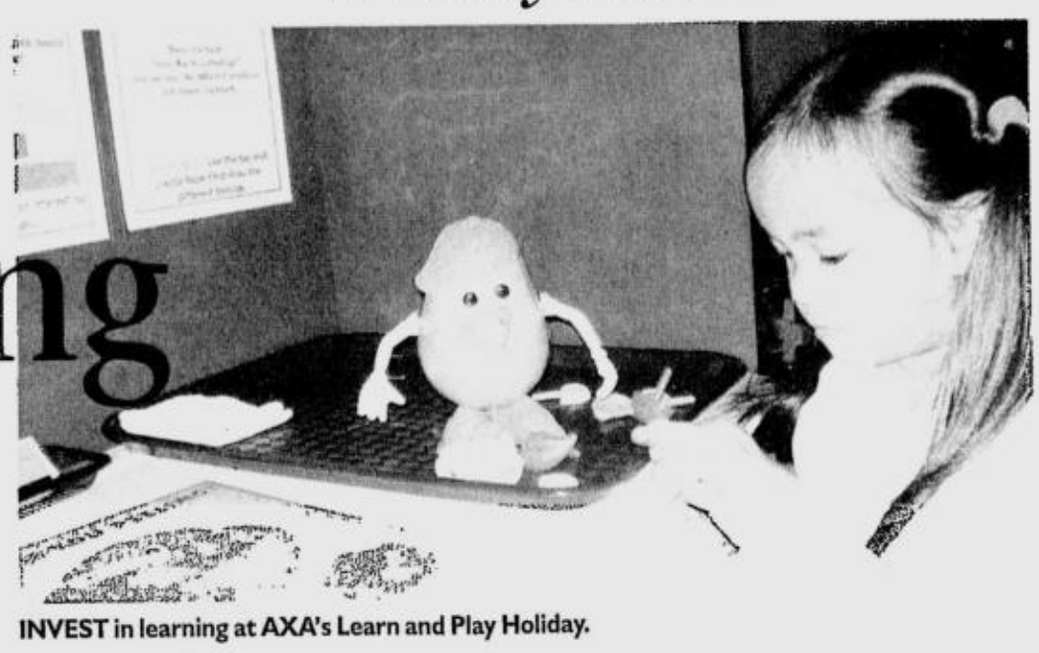
"One Antonia plus one Antonia is two Antonias," Bersola-Babao happily says. With a mother as caring as Bersola-Babao, learning comes naturally.

David Celdran genuinely loves spending time with his two children, whether at home playing "video games which stimulate the imagination" or traveling to various places to learn about life firsthand.

Celdran recommends balance—on the one hand, parents should not neglect their kids, but on the other, they should not put undue pressure on them, especially those at a young age.

Christine Jacob-Sandejas tutors her own four children—a selfless act which I admire. Today, many parents prefer to hire professional tutors, but after surveying more than 2,000 achieving students in public and private schools, I have concluded that parents and family members still make the best mentors.

Jacob-Sandejas admits to being impatient at times when tutoring, but I assure her, "I get impatient, too, but this does not stop me from helping my child learn. When I feel frustrated because my son still does not understand the lesson, we do a time-out, have a snack or take a bath. Then when we are less stressed, we resume homework."



INVEST in learning at AXA's Learn and Play Holiday.

A CHILD completes interactive games under the guidance of a Multiple Intelligences teacher.

AXA Play and Learn

I was privileged to interact with the three hands-on parents last week at AXA's Learn and Play Holiday. Despite hectic work schedules, all of them are sensible, concerned, and willing to step up to the demands of parenthood. For an hour we discussed parenting stresses (such as competition for schools), but we focused on ways to bond with our children (such as reading), and the best gifts we could offer them (such as quality and quantity time).

AXA Philippines is a partnership between two financial companies—Metrobank, one of the nation's leading banks, and the Global AXA group, one of the world's most respected providers of financial protection and wealth management.

Stephen Ong, AXA chief business executive, is himself a devoted parent, and like Celdran, he enriches his children's learning by exposing them to the realities of his profession. "I talk to my kids about what I do, and they even pray that we meet our business targets by 5 in the afternoon, so Dad can come home on time," he said.

"Parents need to invest in their children's future," Ong continued. "We need to invest time, effort, and experience."

Ong added another component—financial investment, especially for college education, and urges parents to plan early for this.

Multiple intelligence

AXA's Learn and Play Holiday started last Nov. 18, at the fifth Level of Fully Booked on Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City.

Kids enjoyed storytelling by Trumpets Playshop and Cambridge Child Development Centre, arts and crafts sessions by Makitoylab and Leap Frog, and play classes by Gymboree.

"We open with a welcome song, then move on to movement activities like Shakin It," said Eva Marie Fetalino-Perez, Gymboree marketing manager, "which leads children and parents to exercise different parts of the body. Then we play games with the Rainbow Rope, an expandable garment rope of many colors that children can stretch, pull and shrink to learn about sizes, color concepts and following directions. We also do Limbo Rock, and many other activities."

Multiple intelligence (MI) is now an established concept in learning, and parents took the opportunity to have their children's abilities diagnosed. "As children go around each station and play with interactive materials, there are corresponding questions to help assess their MI profile," said Joy Canon-Abaquin, MI School founder. "Afterwards, MI teachers evaluate the answers and give a profile of the children's strongest intelligence, together with possible careers, famous people who share their strength and how their intelligence can be honed."

AXA's Learn and Play Holiday will continue this afternoon, and culminate next weekend. Ria Tanjuatco-Trillo and Paolo Abrera will join other experts, Canon-Abaquin, Gymboree's Jackie Aquino, Cambridge's Cathy Feliciano, and Beacon International's Mylene Paterno.

Math tricks

On Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., my 9-year-old son Scott will perform simple Math Magic tricks to show that math need not be feared by anyone. Since the age of 3, Scott has been fascinated by magic, and under the guidance of his father Smith (who is not a professional magician), Scott has developed his skills here. Scott will do some geometry, computations, and mind-reading, and try his best to make math and science come alive.

For more information, e-mail Customado at email@customado.com. Admission is free.

FRUITY MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1 cup LC Mayo (1 small 220ml bottle)
1/2 cup condensed milk
1/2 block cream cheese (optional)
4 cups cooked macaroni noodles
1 cup fruit cocktail, drained
2 small red juicy apples, unpeeled and cut into cubes
1/2 block cheddar cheese, cut into cubes

Procedure:

Combine 1 cup LC Mayo with condensed milk and cream cheese. Blend and mix well by hand.

Add 4 cups cooked macaroni salad, fruit cocktail and the apples. Top with cubed cheddar cheese. Chill and serve cold.

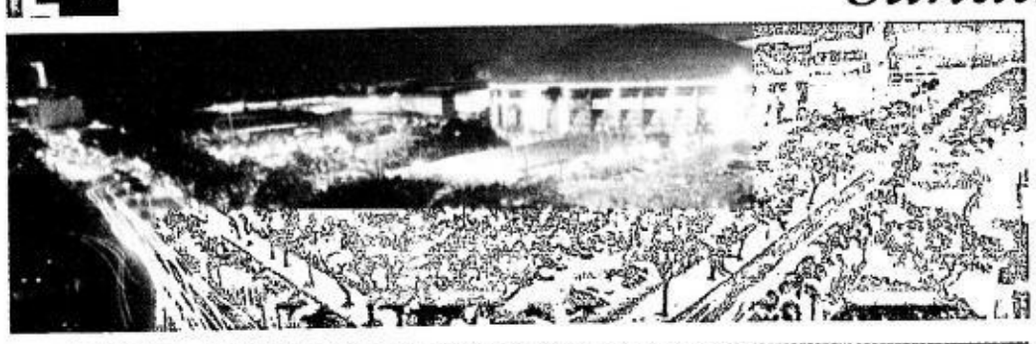
CLASSIC CHICKEN MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup LC Mayonnaise
1/4 tsp fine salt
1/8 tsp ground black pepper
2 cups cooked salad macaroni noodles
1/2 cup pineapple tidbits
1/2 cup boiled chicken, cut into cubes
2 tbsp finely chopped carrots
2 tsp finely chopped celery
2 tsp pickle relish
1/2 cup cheese, diced

Procedure:

Combine LC mayo, salt and ground black pepper. Mix well. Add cooked salad macaroni noodles, pineapple tidbits, boiled chicken, chopped carrots, chopped celery and pickle relish. Top with diced cheese.



Party on with Greenwich Party Express

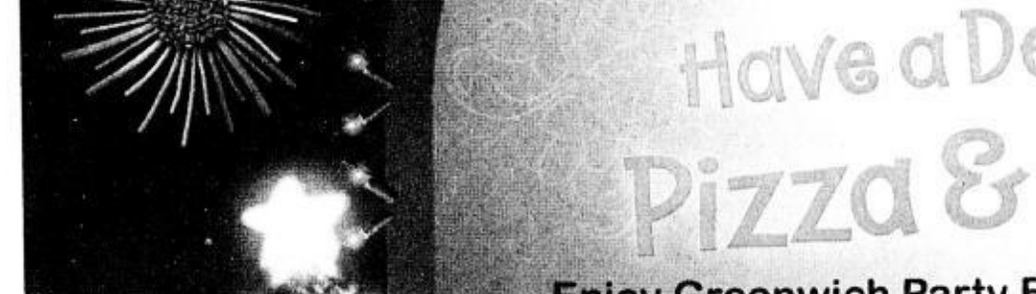
With the Christmas season just around the corner, the all-too-familiar scene of preparing for a big Yuletide party with office-mates, friends and family comes to mind. To help you get started, here are some easy tips to come up with a cool and hassle-free party.

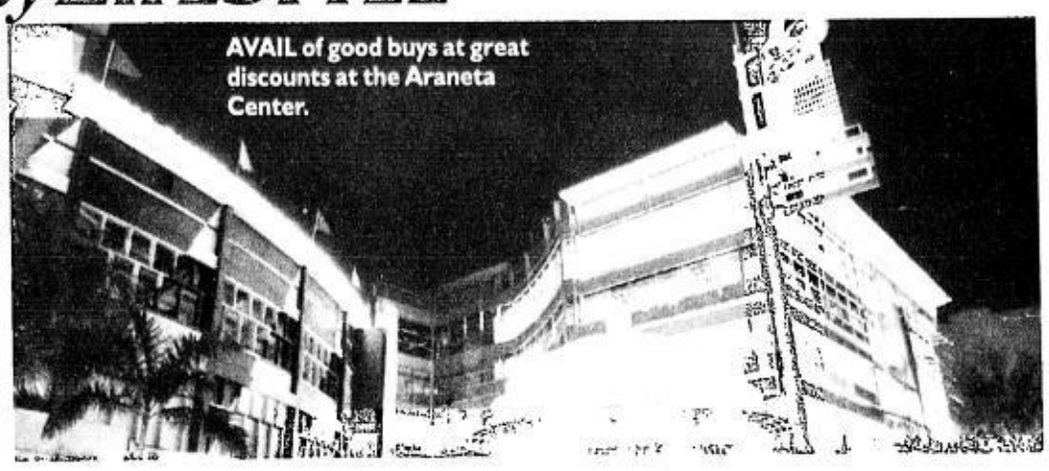
First off, decide on a theme for your party then pick a day and time. Be sure to leave enough time for you and your guests to plan everything that's needed. Write out a guest list and send out the invitations. Make sure to include directions, or even a map, to the venue. Don't forget to include your phone number and let people know where they should park. Part of being a good host is making sure your guests are comfortable and cared for. Make your party memorable for the right reasons. Look out for your friends. We all make a difference.

But have you ever thrown a party, and afterwards realized you were too stressed cooking and preparing that you almost forgot to enjoy your own party, or perhaps, you or your friends have grown tired of the usual food you share? Then worry no more! Let Greenwich take away the hassle of food preparation and bring out the joy in this year's Christmas get-togethers wherever you are!

The Greenwich Party Express offers the Deliciously Merry Feast for those who want to put an interesting twist to this season's get-togethers. Greenwich's new Christmas offering, dubbed as Deliciously Merry Feast is composed of Pizza de Lechon with festive flavors of lechon kawali and chicharon, spread over a base of lechon sarsa atop Greenwich's newest Garlic Rolled-Edge crust. The two new pasta dishes are Super Meatball Spaghetti with a mound of tender meat, covered in rich, tasty tomato sauce and parmesan cheese and Cheesy Beef Cannelloni-- the rolled pasta stuffed with a juicy beef filling on a bed of tangy salsa and topped with cream sauce and cheese. Also available are Greenwich's all-time favorites like Greenwich Special, Primo Fully-Loaded, Lasagna and Baked Macaroni Supreme. Whether new or classic favorite, Greenwich Party Express is sure to replace your usual party preparation stress with loads of fun and excitement with family and friends this season. Simply visit your favorite Greenwich store or call Greenwich Delivery 5-55-55 for Metro Manila.

For those who want to send pizza and pasta to anyone ANYWHERE in the Philippines, just call Greenwich delivery 5-55-55 for Metro Manila or visit any of the 243 Greenwich stores to avail of Greenwich Delivereach. Hurry! Make Greenwich a part of this season's celebrations!





Holiday sale

ENJOY THE BIGgest discounts with the metro's most exciting sale of the Yuletide season. Araneta Center teams up with Western Union for the Great Early Christmas Sale. Avail of great gift selections at up to 70-percent off when you shop at Gateway Mall, Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza, Farmers Market, Shopwise Arcade, SM Department Store, and Value Station.

Sign up for a Western Union Gold Card at any of the booths located at Araneta Center ongoing until Dec. 31 and win any of the following instant prizes: tickets to Barney's Let's Imagine Tour in Manila Live at the Araneta Coliseum, Globe Platinum Cinema tickets, all-day passes to Star City, Bacchus products and other treats from Western Union. Fill out raffle stubs and get a chance to win Motorola phones, Magic Sing microphones, Fuller Life gift packs, an overnight stay at the Mandarin Oriental Manila, and front-row seats to Disney on Ice at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Araneta Center Great Early Christmas Sale runs from Nov. 30 to Dec. 9. For the latest holiday updates and promos log on to www.aranetacenter.net.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

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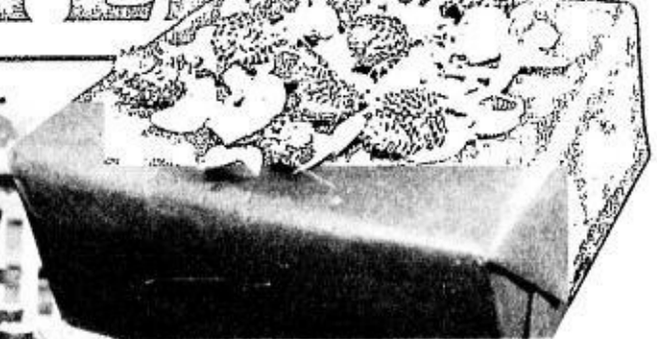
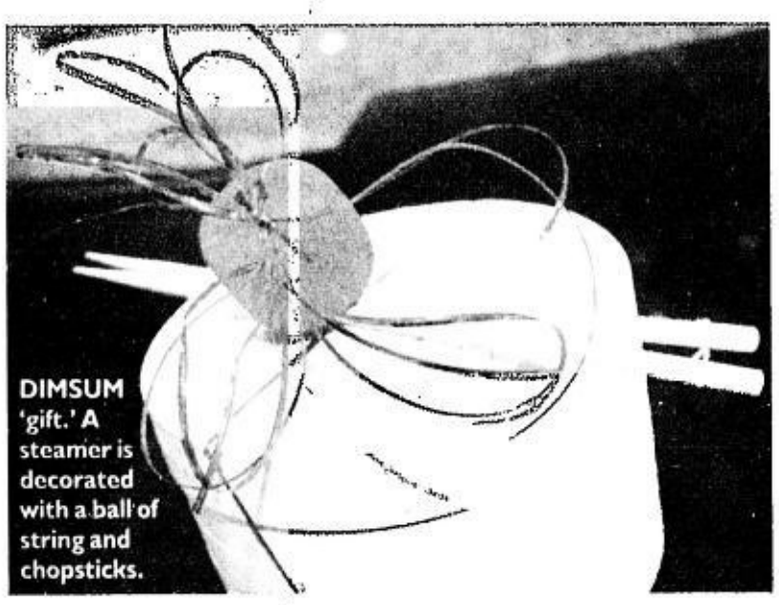
CHRISTMAS TUTU. Capiz and metal dancing ballerinas form the centerpiece of this festive holiday table with Christmas plates and red accessories from the holiday collection of Crossings.

METRO Weddings editor in chief Romina Urra Gonzalez, Crossings' Xandra Ramos-Padilla and stylist Rachy Cuna



NATURE'S PICK. Dried potpourri on handmade box



DIMSUM 'gift.' A steamer is decorated with a ball of string and chopsticks.

Packaging *that says you care*

CROSSINGS hosted recently a gift-wrapping demonstration by stylist and floral architect Rachy Cuna.

The store, which is giving special holiday discounts of 10-30 percent until Dec. 16, organized the event to help people give their gifts this season a special and unique touch without having to spend a lot.

Armed with a glue gun, Cuna demonstrated innovative ways of gift-wrapping that will show recipients how much the giver cares.

He used natural materials and found items like dry twigs, as well as Crossings items like placemats for wrapping wine.

In the open forum that followed, he answered questions from the audience on how to wrap challenging gifts like pets or cars.

Wise tips to beat mas rush

Things to buy:

- ~~BAE~~ Cologne for Mia
- ~~NBWA Cap~~ Shirt for Carlo
- ~~Robot~~ Toy car for Joey
- ~~Jacket~~ Book for Gail

Christmas is a time for merrymaking and lots o... but it's a... the most... times of... The endle... list, th... buying g... anxiety ... crowded... all con... create st... life. T... before... the r... gettin... regist... read... help... you... holi... s u...

ing. This way, can shop relaxed and urbed. What's e, salespeople friendlier and can give you ivided attention n they don't e a huge crowd andle.

me early if u're shopping

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Create a Christmas budg...

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For many of us, t... after-effects... Christmas inclu... huge credit ca... bills that can ta... many months... settle. But Christ... doesn't need to b... pain in the pock... you plan ahead... early as you ... create a ro... budget of anticip... Christmas c... Include in... budget all the... you're planni... buy, plus "hidden... expenses such as... unexpected gifts... and overseas...

ality oved ends they by ality will iate. able

to it as much as possible. It will also help if you set a limit on the costs of

to avoid the frenzy, shop during weekdays, preferably in the

items that will remind them of your love throughout the year.

Running out of gift ideas this holiday season?

Get BPI Express Cash Gift Cards for your loved ones, plus do other banking transactions at any BPI Express Banking Center (EBC). There are over 100 EBCs to serve you even after office hours and on weekends.

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SD 2565 Classic Digital Glass
SD 8160 Contemporary Digital Glass
SD 8010 Digital Clear Silver
SD 8250 Mirage
SD 2550 Silver Body Fat Analyzer
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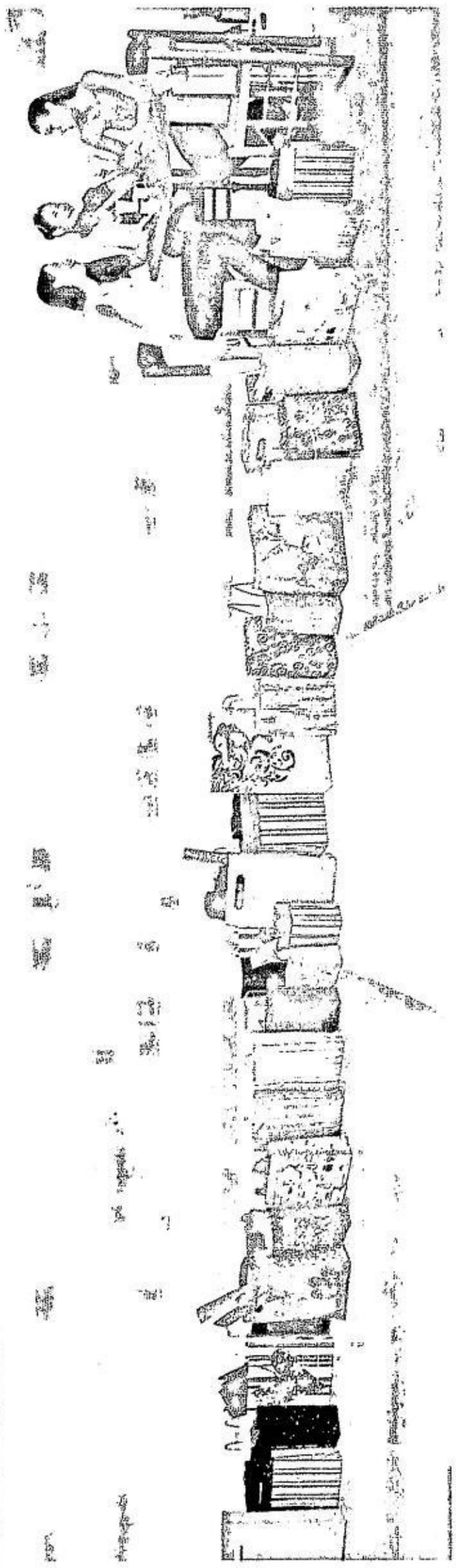

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WELCOME TO PAMPANGA'S SHOPPING MARATHON
SM Pampanga is now the LONGEST MALL in the country! With its new 4th wing, enjoy a 1-kilometer stretch of all the shopping and dining that you want! Close to 100 of the BEST BRANDS and shops you desire are finally here.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Her mother is having an affair

DEAR EMILY,

My mom and dad are both 54 years old, and I'm 27 already. My father is a seaman who is away for 10 months in a year. My mom is a homemaker.

It must have been five years ago when I noticed something about my mom. A guy would always call and look for my mother.

My sister once asked who the guy was and my mom replied that he was a friend of hers. We never questioned her again perhaps because we did not want to know the truth.

I already had my doubts. Once, I heard her talking to someone on the phone, detailing what they just did sexually and how they enjoyed it. I was 100-percent sure she was not talking to my dad. It confirmed everything.

You cannot imagine the pain when I learned this. I love her so much and most of the time I pity her. She always complained how bored she was just staying in the house. But I do not think she has the right to hurt us and my dad that way.

No one knows that she is having an affair aside from me. Maybe my sisters know it, too, but we do not talk about it at all.

I do not want to say anything to my dad, since I do not want to break up our family and I do not want him to get hurt. Sometimes I feel like confronting my mother and then I tell myself to just let it pass.

Anyway, my dad is retiring and he will be staying for good in the Philippines.

That should put an end to my mom's affair but I am so sad.

LT

Your dilemma is being experienced, as we speak, by so many other wives, husbands and children in the same situation.

The question here is, is breaking up a family by bringing out the truth in the open worth it?

Let us say you are able to confront your mother about her affair, then what? Are you going to be her judge and jury and ask her to choose between your father and her lover? Or will it remain a little secret between the two of you?

Do you honestly believe it was just boredom that drove your mother into having this affair? Besides the money he sends home, are there other reasons why your father should be able to count on your mother's loyalty?

Did your parents have a strong, loving, friendly and affectionate relationship that should have enabled them to bear these long separations?

Your pain is understandable and so is your father's anger if he finds out. But it is so easy to point fingers and throw stones when we are not in that predicament.

And, unless we enter the minds of the players here, we will really never know the whys, wherefores and hows of a family on the verge of breaking up.

You may have a heart-to-heart talk with your mother if this will ease your pain.

Just remember to have an open mind whe
to you.

Keep yo
lips shut.

Be prep
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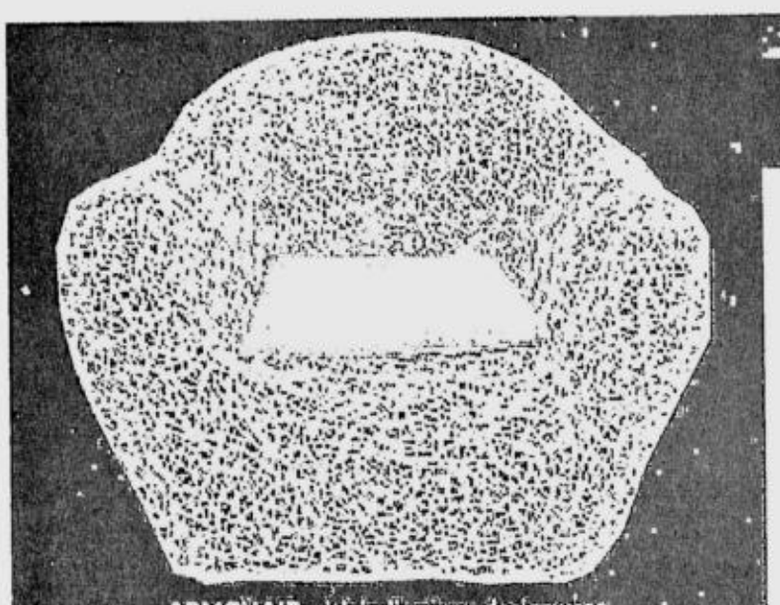
Modern Italian elegance



ARMCHAIR with indigenous design uses lightweight yet durable rattan.

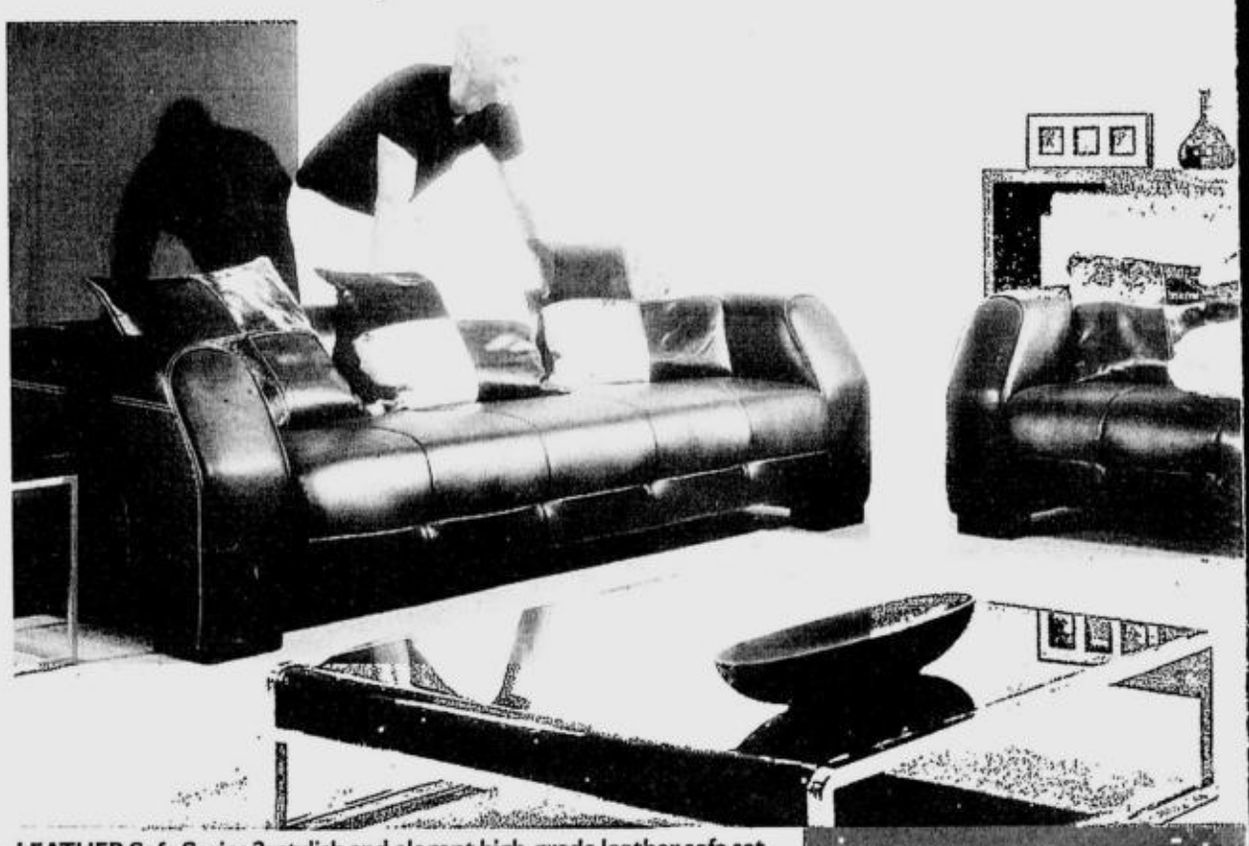
ARREDARE LA CASA, A NEW furniture center, celebrates the luxury of stylish Italian comforts through its selection of tastefully crafted home and office furnishings.

Located at the fourth level of Anson's Ortigas Center, Arredare La Casa's showroom booths are designed by Philippine Institute of Interior Design (PIID) members.

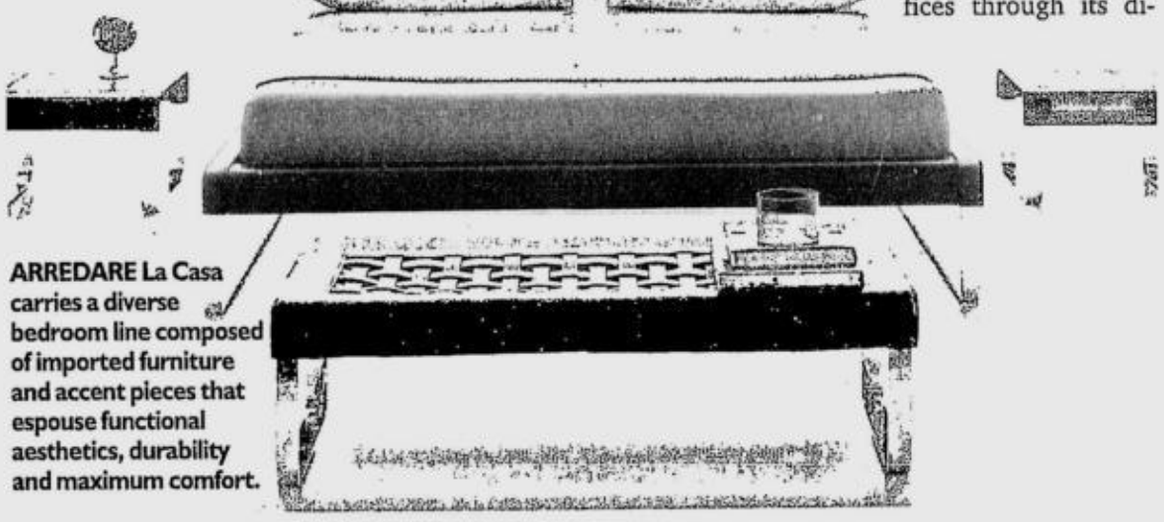
The store carries a wide assortment of Italian brands like Fasem, OMP, Bart, Green, Bimax, and Jimmy Car, all offering uniquely conceptualized designs, from modern, classic and retro to rustic influences.

Aside from reinventing the look of conventional homes and offices through its diverse lineup of functional furniture pieces, Arredare La Casa is also the perfect one-stop shop for those in search of trendy and lasting accent pieces, home theater seats, storerooms such as entertainment cabinets, modular steel cabinets and closet system, children's beds, study tables, and sofa beds, among others. Imported and locally made Christmas décor and ornaments are also available.

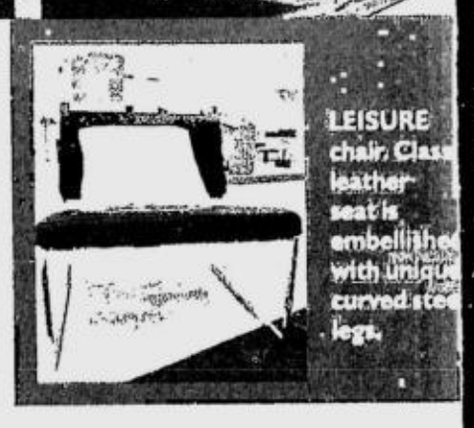
Visit Arredare La Casa's showroom at 4/F, Anson's Ortigas (in front of The Podium), or call 4801474, 3645579. E-mail sales@arredare-la-casa.com or visit www.arredare-la-casa.-com.



LEATHER Sofa Series 2: stylish and elegant high-grade leather sofa set



ARREDARE La Casa carries a diverse bedroom line composed of imported furniture and accent pieces that espouse functional aesthetics, durability and maximum comfort.



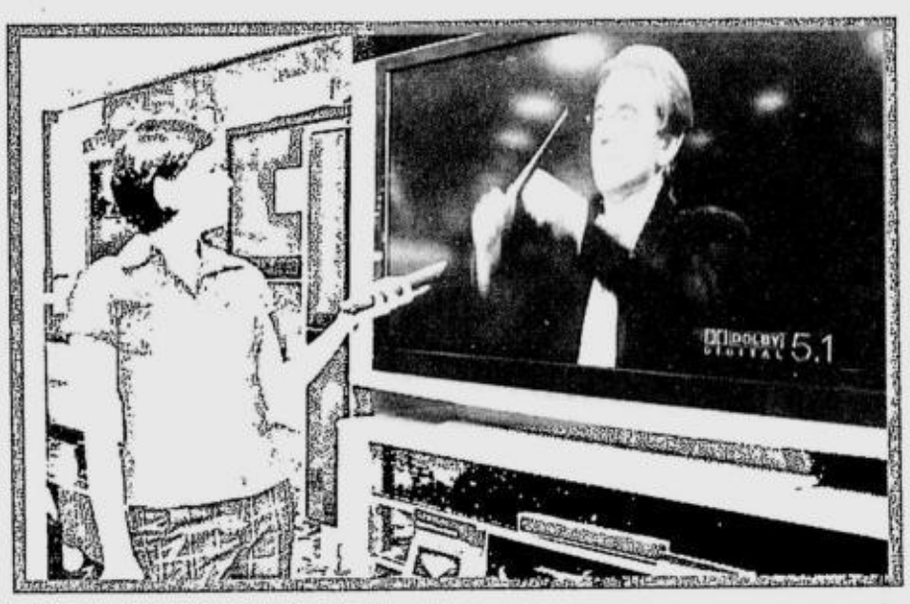
LEISURE chair. Class leather seat is embellished with unique curved steel legs.

Practical Christmas gift-giving

NOW THAT CHRISTMAS IS just around the corner, TV morning-show host Suzi Entrata-Abrera is looking forward to spending the season with her husband, children, her parents and in-laws. "I am big on Christmas. I have such a long list on a piece of paper filled with names in front and at the back."

So what's on her wish list this Christmas? "One of those state-of-the-art flat-screen televisions will be good for Paolo. I think my husband will just move out of our house if we don't have a TV set," she says, laughing. "Or maybe a new laptop with a bigger memory." She wants to give her father a gas range; a nice hair dryer for her mom; an MP3 player for her sister Meg; a TV set for her brother Mark; a camcorder for her other sister Bianca; and a refrigerator for her mother-in-law. How about for herself? Suzi says she wants a really great refrigerator that comes with an ice dispenser.

Suzi is very practical when it comes to giving gifts. "Everybody loves to receive appliances as Christmas presents. They're very useful."



SUZI Entrata-Abrera checks out the LCD TV and Home Theater, gas range, and refrigerator with ice dispenser at Robinsons Appliances.

When shopping for appliances, for her home or as gifts, Suzi goes to Robinsons Appliances. Carrying an extensive range of products at competitive prices with special extended warranty and replacement options, the store's merchandise include various brands of TV sets, refrigerators, washing machines, microwave ovens, flat irons, electric fans, air conditioners, home theater systems, business machines and accessories, VCD and DVD players, iPod docks, digital still and video cameras, MP3 players, and Magic Sing microphones.

"Aside from their extensive array of appliances at competitive prices, I like shopping at Robinsons Appliances particularly in its newly opened Robinsons Galleria flagship store, because the place is well-lit and the aisles are wide so they are easier to navigate. And the staff is accommodating and they know their products well," she says.

She adds that she cannot imagine life without a fridge, or rice cooker, or gas range, even a water dispenser. "I drink a lot of water!"

Acknowledged as the fastest-growing appliance store in the country, Robinsons Appliances recently opened its flagship branch in Robinsons Galleria, the 15th outlet of the appliance chain. Other branches are located at Robinsons Metro East, Pasig; Robinsons Place Novaliches; Robinsons Place Pioneer (Robinsons Digital Brand); Robinsons Place Cainta; Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Cavite; Robinsons Place Lipa, Batangas; Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga; Robinsons Place Angeles, Pampanga; Robinsons Place Bacolod; Robinsons Place Cebu; Robinsons Place Iloilo; Robinsons Place Cagayan de Oro; Starmall, Edsa, Mandaluyong; Blue Wave Mall, Marikina; PureGold San Juan; and Tutuban Center, Manila. Robinsons Appliances in Robinsons Place Otis opens soon this month.

Prepare feasts for all occasions

WE FILIPINOS ARE KNOWN FOR TURNing simple occasions into big family celebrations. From welcome parties to *despedidas*, graduations and even winning small contests, we make it a point to have a party for the entire family. We also have family reunions, fiestas and get-togethers all year long. And of course, the center of every celebration is food. We make gatherings extra special by sharing our family's all-time favorite Pinoy dishes, including *kare-kare, mechado, dinuguan, laing* and more.

To help every homemaker prepare these mouth-watering specialties, especially in the coming season of nonstop Pinoy celebrations, Tupperware introduces the best cooking companion, Tupperchef Series 6.7L Stock Pot.

Tupperchef Series 6.7L Stock Pot is perfect for preparing stews, casseroles and sauce-rich dishes for your entire family. With its generous capacity, you'll surely fill everyone with your scrumptious cooking.

The Tupperchef Series 6.7L Stock Pot is made of exceptionally durable, superior-quality 18-gauge stainless steel, which makes it tough and look sparklingly elegant. It also has an encapsulated base that features a consistent layer of aluminum fused between two layers of stainless steel, which makes it produce fast and even heat at all times. It's also safe for all cooking surfaces because of its quality Tri-Ply construction, so you can cook on gas, electric, ceramic and by using induction.

You can also put it in the oven, as its base can be safely used up to 450°F (232°C) and its tempered glass cover up to 350°F (177°C).

Its cast stainless-steel handles are designed to be hollow so they stay cool even on the stovetop, while its glass cover also has a uniquely shaped handle to give plenty of room for maneuvering your hands and knuckles.

And because it's from Tupperware, you can be sure it can last a lifetime of cooking.

TUPPERCHEF Series 6.7L Stock Pot

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'I do not want to say anything to my dad, since I do not want to break up our family and I do not want him to get hurt'

n she starts baring her soul
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prise you to discover that
s are not always what they

he author at emarcelo@in-.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or letters to INQUIRER. Log on to ov.ph and listen to Ms o-host the program "Kagilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., iday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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Rustan's Supermarkets' Fun And Environmentally-Friendly Twist On Creche Making

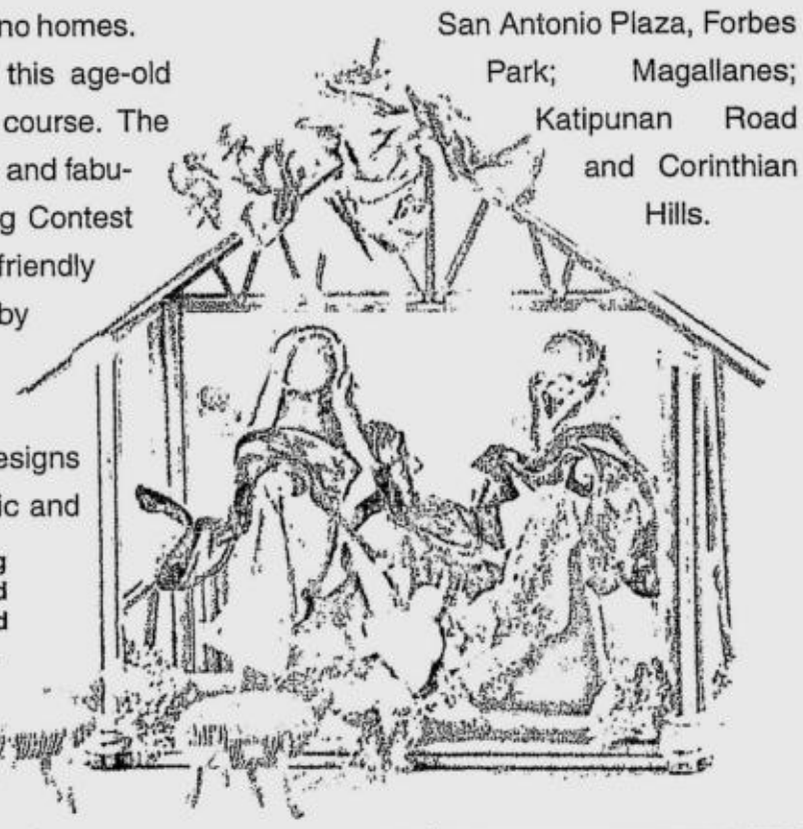
Rustan's Supermarkets puts an exciting spin on the holidays as it fondly looks back on long-standing traditions that prove indispensable to the true meaning of Christmas.

This season, Rustan's highlights an iconic Christmas symbol in celebration of the holidays: the crèche. Known in French as the "infant bed", crèche or more popularly called "belen" is a miniature representation of the nativity scene. St. Francis of Assisi is widely credited for introducing the tradition in 1223 when he beckoned town villagers to re-enact the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. Today, the crèche serves to heighten the religious fervor and sentiments of the festive celebration as it flourishes in many Filipino homes.

So how does one spice up this age-old practice? Throw in a twist, of course. The time-honored custom gets fresh and fabulous in Rustan's Crèche Making Contest with the adoption of an earth-friendly slant. Explore your artistic side by veering away from the usual adornments and coming up with original and inspired designs made out of indigenous, organic and recyclable materials. The sky's the limit with what you can do with your creativity.

Outstanding efforts get featured in a special window gallery at Rustan's Rockwell. Big prizes await the chosen finalists: Php 15,000 and Php 30,000 for the 3rd and 2nd runner-ups and a whooping cash prize of Php 50,000 for the grand winner! Interested parties may register at any Rustan's Supermarket Fresh branches from Nov. 19 to Dec. 17, 2007 only.

Rustan's Fresh Supermarkets are located in Ayala Center, Makati; Rockwell Powerplant Mall; Gateway Mall, Cubao; Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa; Greenbelt 1; San Antonio Plaza, Forbes Park; Magallanes; Katipunan Road and Corinthian Hills.



Explore your artistic side by veering away from the usual adornments and coming up with original and inspired crèche designs using organic, indigenous and recyclable materials. Join the Rustan's Supermarket Fresh Crèche Making Contest from Nov. 19 to Dec. 17, 2007 only.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **BOYS ARE**

ACROSS
1 Jeopardize
8 Dresses up
15 Succinct
20 Feeling of discomfort
21 Group that sings doo-wop
22 Indiana hoopster
23 Senator Lott dwelling in a flat?
25 Valuable violin
26 Old outlaw Barrow
27 Winning tic-tac-toe row
28 Jamboree gp.
30 Spill the beans
31 Psychic
32 Downcast
34 Poet Thomas seen in gestures?
39 TV talker Phil
42 Cable
43 Cur's warning
44 Designer Klein found among lianas?
47 Straightened
51 Wake rudely
52 Brain test: Abbr.
53 Pitcher Hershiser
54 Be indebted
55 Eventually
56 Small lump
59 Photographer Adams appearing in a Rat Pack film?
64 Sea ducks
67 Half: Prefix
68 Alter
69 Singer Sherman inside significant buildings?
75 Try out
76 iPod model
77 Just about
78 Actor Murphy kept within a sensible meal plan?
83 Not a one
84 Philosopher Lao- —
87 Live
88 Packs it in
89 By way of
92 Arch types
94 Stylish sunglasses
96 Conductor Previn spotted in Hawaii?
101 Carte or mode lead-in
102 "No —!" ("Easy!")
103 Get callous
104 Singer Presley stuck in a narrow outlook?
109 Genetic abbr.
110 ATM filler
113 Pre-owned
114 Fa follower
115 Cockney's residence
117 It sailed with the Nina
118 Pastoral
120 Artist Degas hiding in separated parking structures?
126 Officer's ID
127 Hawaiian Punch rival
128 Matching pair
129 Ole of vaudeville
130 Bening of "Bugsy"
131 Fake fat

DOWN
1 Some Apples
2 Sap source
3 Passe
4 Dangling pieces of jewelry
5 Liturgical act
6 Suffix with Mormon
7 — tide (current type)
8 About
9 Pulsate
10 — kwon do
11 Motel
12 Two-timer
13 Authorize
14 Taco topping
15 Jacuzzi joint
16 Busy German port
17 Florida city
18 Put a new label on
19 Clan
24 Small knot
29 "Sense and Sensibility" director
32 Anatomical pouch
33 "I see!"
35 Hold title to
36 Go kaput
37 Cen. parts
38 Interrogate
40 Dolt
41 Fall female
44 Undertake
45 Egg mass
46 "Where did — wrong?"
47 "— gratia artis"
48 Kim of "Vertigo"
49 Water jugs
50 Refute
53 Cat- — -tails
57 Busyness
58 Austrian article
60 Lover of Daphnis
61 Electric fish
62 "— for All Seasons"
63 "Climb — Mountain"
64 This, in Mexico
65 Citrus zests
66 Edible, long-bodied fish
69 "... you could — pin drop"
70 R&B's — Brothers
71 Singer/songwriter DiFranco
72 Actor Butler
73 Kind of med. scan
74 Divides up
75 Certain ski lift
79 Writer Zora — Hurston
80 Gondolas' courses
81 UFO crew
82 Dam-building New Deal agcy.
84 Adolescent feeling of insecurity
85 Aegean or Baltic
86 N.J. hours
90 Kin of Ltd.
91 Worshiped
93 Athenians, e.g.
95 Wound wrapping
96 Taxing org.
97 "— lied!"
98 Certain corp. takeover
99 Took off
100 Memorable time
102 Keep adding more to
104 Prefix with jet or prop
105 Customary
106 Unhip kids
107 Bloody Mary ingredient
108 Like a perfectly pitched game
111 Direct
112 "— la vista!"
116 Bygone Persian
117 — -dieu (kneeling bench)
119 Writer Deighton
121 Whole bunch
122 Stein quaff
123 Ocelot, e.g.
124 '60s muscle car
125 Poking tool

answer on page H4

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

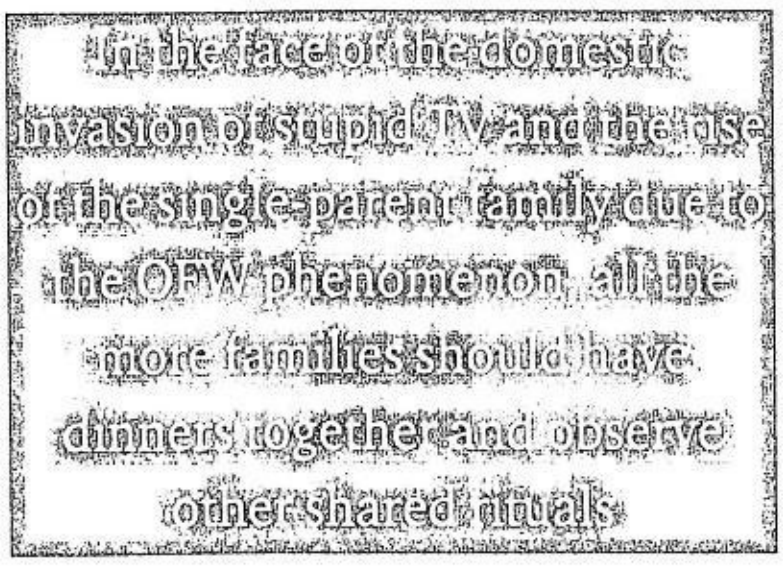
The value of family meals

THOUGH I'M NOT TOO CRAZY ABOUT television commercials (TVCs), there is that rare ad that hits you in the gut and makes you sit up and think long and hard about your family values. I'm talking about the "Lucky Me" ads that speak so strongly about the value of family meals and the all-important rituals that come with them.

The first ad, with a catchy jingle in it, makes a reference to what goes on during a family meal—"*Dito, 'di lang pagkain ang pinagsasaluhan, pati masarap na kuwentuhan, mapait na sinapit sa* exam, *mainit na tampuhan, matamis na hagikgikan ...*" The last frame zooms in on an empty chair, and the ad jingle sings, "*Mas masaya sana kung nandito ka.*" The ad closes with a voiceover—"*Mahalaga na kumpleto sa kainan ang pamilya.*"

In another ad, Monde Nissin, the company that produces Lucky Me, shows two boys and their mother, reminiscing about the meals that they used to have with *tatay* (who is an OCW) and how they now look forward to his homecoming. A bowl of Lucky Me, shared between siblings, brings back memories of the family when it was still complete.

The value of family meals cannot be overemphasized, especially in this day and age when we have all become so busy with our lives and the demands of work sometimes sacrifice family time. This becomes more of a challenge when the children are in their teen-age years and they, too, have their own schedules to follow, often dining instead with their friends or schoolmates, or coming home to a house where everyone has already eaten and there is only the TV set to keep one company.



Shared meal

In a June 2006 Time magazine article, the importance of the family meal is described as such—"Yet for all that, there is something about a shared meal—not some holiday blowout, not once in a while but regularly, reliably—that anchors a family even on nights when the food is fast and the talk cheap and everyone has someplace else they'd rather be. And on those evenings when the mood is right and the family lingers, caught up in an idea or an argument explored in a shared safe place where no one is stupid or shy or ashamed, you get a glimpse of the power of this habit and why social scientists say such communion acts as a kind of vaccine, protecting kids from all manner of harm."

Miriam Weinstein, author of "The Surprising Power of Family Meals," says that rituals (such as the family meal) have a great power for smoothing over the rough spots, helping us to regroup and heal. And clearly, there is some scientific basis to it:

"The rise of the hormone oxytocin after a meal is linked to feelings of calm and connection. Supper is a small daily treat we give ourselves. If we are frantically busy, it's a time to slow down. If our days are solitary and slow, a sociable meal can bring a welcome stimulus."

Check to bad behavior

The importance of a family meal, shared together, at the very least, five times a week, was further strengthened by a seven-year study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (Casa) at Columbia University. Casa's mandate is to find ways to keep kids from destructive behaviors—substance, tobacco and alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancies in particular. In 1996 Casa spoke to 1,200 teens ages 12-17 and their parents to find out family dining patterns and the impact they had on the children. The results were not what they expected—they found out that, when it came to predicting kids' behavior, eating dinner with the family was more important than church attendance, even more important than grades at school.

Some of the significant results of that study, published in 2003, as highlighted in Weinstein's book are as follows—compared to teens who have family dinners twice a week or less, teens who have dinner with their families five or more nights a week are:

- 32 percent likelier never to have tried cigarettes
- 45 percent likelier never to have tried alcohol
- 24 percent likelier never to have tried drugs

More A's, less stress

Furthermore, the results showed that those who eat lots of family dinners are almost twice as likely to get A's in school as their classmates who rarely eat as a family. It was also discovered that kids who have regular family meals are half as likely to be highly stressed as those who rarely have dinner.

However, the rub here is that it is usually in the teenage years when family dinners wane because the kids have many activities outside the home or the parents' schedules are too full. This is where parents need to make that all-important choice of prioritizing family mealtime and to stress that importance to their teeners.

The 1996 National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health conducted a study among 90,000 teenagers and 20,000 parents and found that, "When a parent is physically present in the home at key times, and has high expectations for the child's education, children are on the road to being protected from involvement in behaviors that damage them."

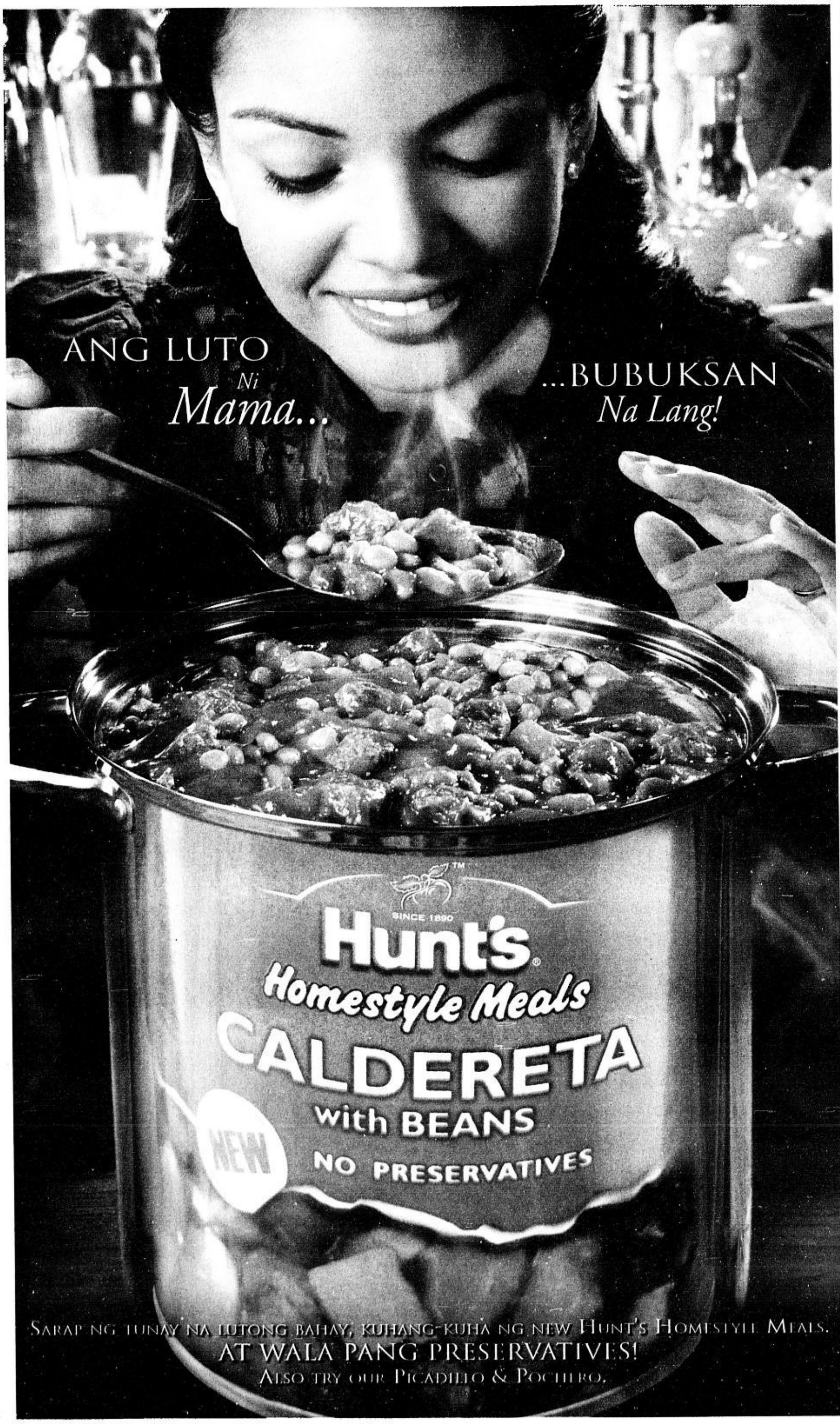
Key times here were defined as in the morning, after school, at dinner, and at bedtime. If both parents cannot be present, then at least, I would suggest that at least one parent be available during those key times in their children's lives. And, at the very least, be both available during family mealtimes, at least four times a week.

OFW family rituals

In the Philippines, there's a huge portion of the population with OFW or single-parent families. As the other Lucky Me TVC ad implied, all the more it is very important to have some form of ritual continue in spite of the absence.

Families just need to be creative and modify the ritual. The TV ad shows that although the father is gone, the mother is present to provide the much-needed anchor. It could also be gleaned from the ad that the family has a well of family mealtime memories to draw from, enough to bind them together until dad comes home.

E-mail cathybabao@gmail.com



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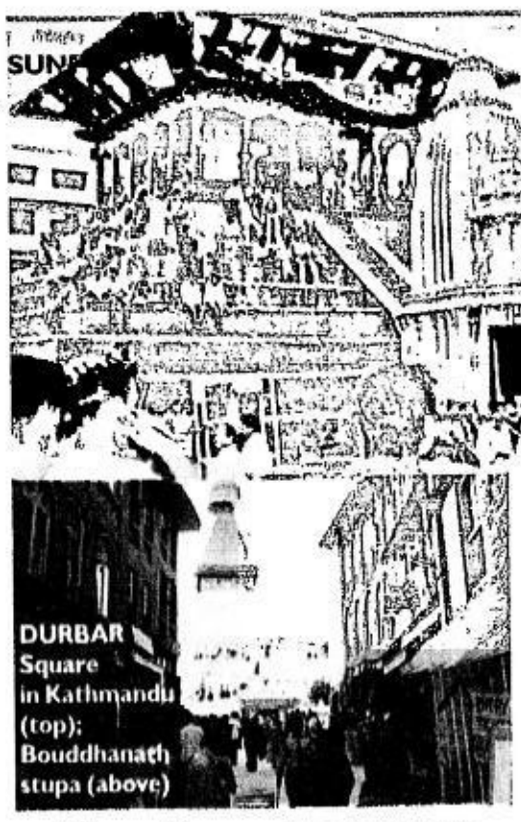
The top of the world is in grave danger



Nepal's environment problems merit the world's attention

By Antonio M. Claparols
Contributor

SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD, Nepal, one of the stepping stones to Mt. Everest, is a country of immense natural beauty with a deep-rooted cultural heritage.

A great part of its beauty derives from the many rivers that flow from the Himalayan mountain range and support many countries in Asia.

You can say it is the watershed of Asia—a world marvel and the home of World Heritage sites.

Its condition should make it one of the points of world attention, in view of the ongoing conference on climate change in Bali, Indonesia.

In September, we had the opportunity to travel to Nepal.

We visited Bhaktapur, literally the city of devotees and site of the country's highest temple, and marveled at how the ancient city had been restored.

We went on to nearby Nagarkot, where one can enjoy a panoramic view of the majestic Himalayas.

Our journey also brought us to Durbar Square in Kathmandu, with its beautiful architecture and the most outstanding cluster of exquisite temples and royal palaces.

It is truly a World Heritage site.

But Nepal, where the rural folk live in self-sufficiency, and the Himalayas are in grave danger.

Already, the effects of climate change have resulted in the melting of the glaciers.

But it is not only climate change that poses danger but also projects planned for the next 10-20 years to dam the many rivers for hydroelectric development.

Dams can adversely affect the health of rivers and streams. They alter channel form and structure, flow regimen and sediment transport, thus changing water temperature and chemistry, modifying algal and macro-invertebrate communities and disrupting resident and migratory fish communities.

One threatened river is the Karnali, Nepal's "sacred gift to the world."

Damming the Karnali and other rivers will ultimately wreak havoc on the greatest resource of all—water.

It will have negative impacts on the many countries that are beneficiaries of this water resource.

It was but fitting that the IUCN (The World Conservation Union), together with the government of Nepal, hosted the 4th Asian Regional Conservation Forum in September.

About 400 delegates from more than 30 Asian countries participated in the conference, which had as its theme "Synergies for a Sustainable Asia."

It was enlightening to listen to the experiences of other Asian countries in dealing with environmental issues.

What struck us most were the experiences of Bhutan and Thailand—two examples illustrating how oneness with nature has been embedded in their respective cultures.

The Constitution of Bhutan specifies a forest cover of 60 percent.

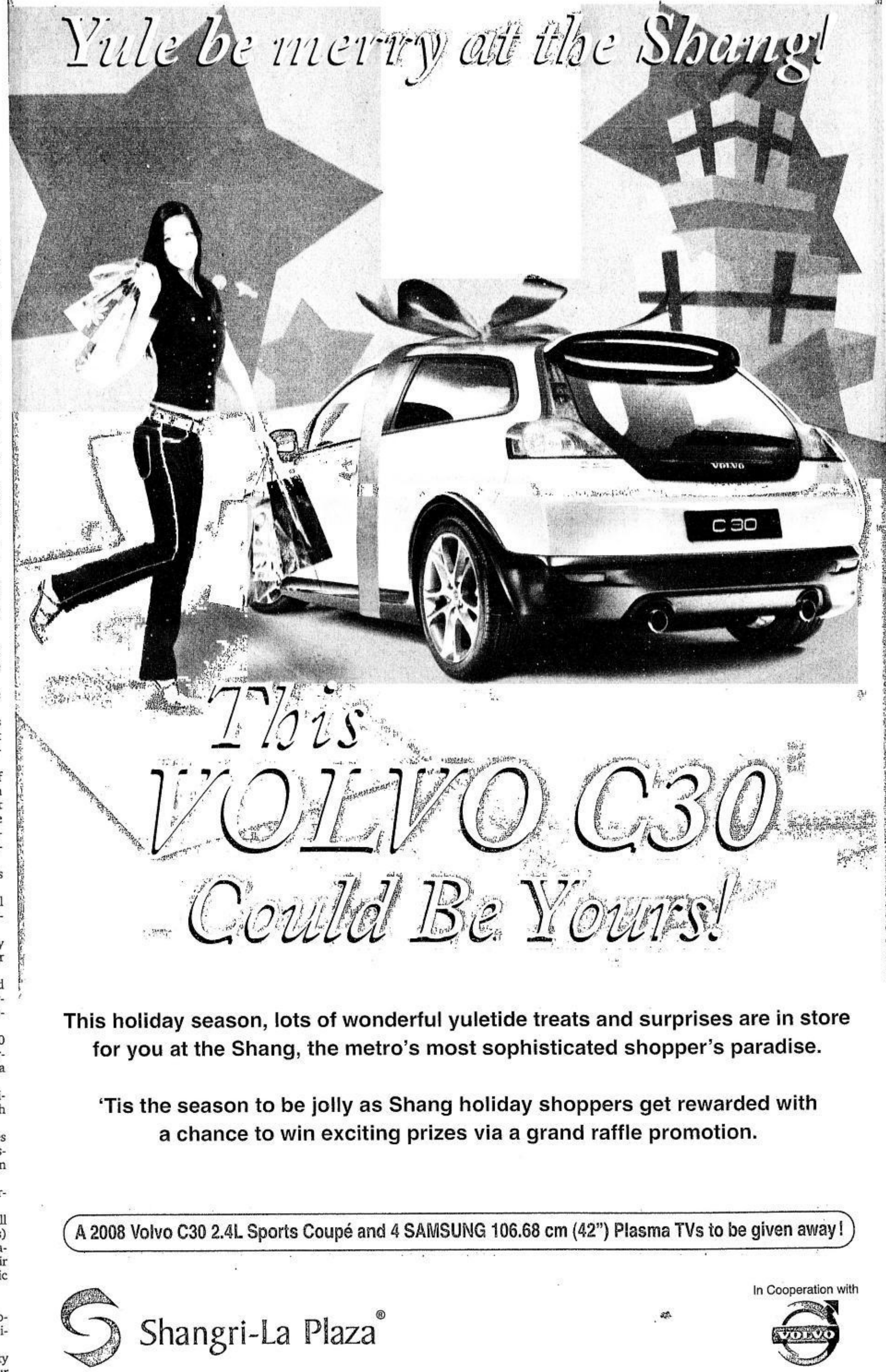
And the Bhutanese have what they call their GNH (Gross National Happiness) benchmark instead of the GNP (Gross National Product) of the western world. Their happiness is more important than economic development and material wealth.

This, to us, is remarkable.

Meanwhile, the Thais espouse a philosophy set forth by their revered King Bhumibol—a philosophy of self-sufficiency.

These are great lessons in sustainability that we can all share in order to preserve our respective parts of the world, including Nepal's endangered rivers.

The author is the president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines.



This holiday season, lots of wonderful yuletide treats and surprises are in store for you at the Shang, the metro's most sophisticated shopper's paradise.

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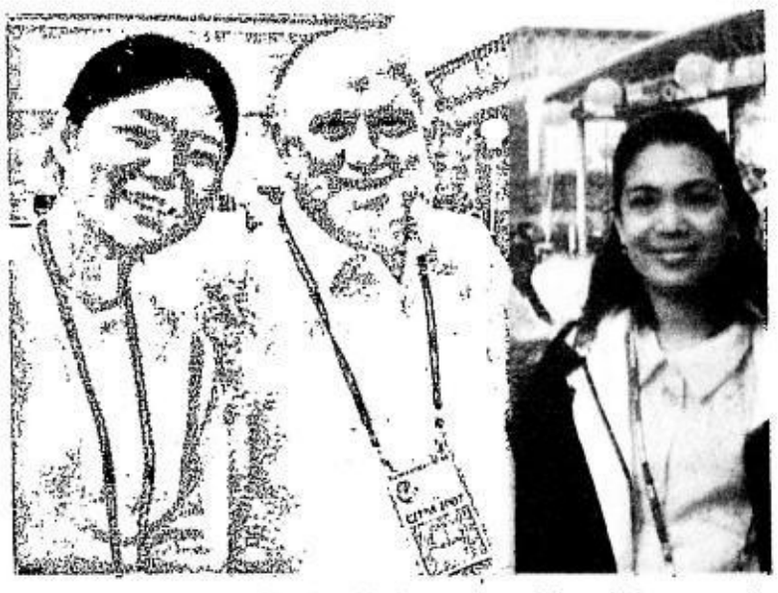
Selling the Philippines in Kunming


CITM's Christina Ang, Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque and DOT Team China head Arlene Alipio

The capital of China's Yunnan province hosts a travel fair of United Nations proportions, with RP as a prominent participant

Text and photos by Irene C. Perez

IN ONE BOOTH, TWO BUFFED THAI guys battled it out in a Muay Thai exhibition, while a dusky Hawaiian girl performed the hula in another. Optimus Prime and Mickey Mouse standees greeted you in the next. In the Philippine booth, the Bayanihan dancers skillfully performed the *tinikling* to the awe of Chinese youngsters.

Don't be surprised if you bump into cowgirls, panda mascots or even a Swiss cow in the China International Travel Mart (CITM). It's the United Nations of travel fairs, baby.

Think global bazaar with a fiesta feel where "countries" are sold instead of wares. The Kunming International Convention & Exhibition Center, which is roughly the size of three football fields, was divided into six exhibition halls to house over 2,000 exhibitors from 92 countries and cities.

Asian countries participated in full force, and the entire world map is practically represented with the presence of well-known places like Greece, Italy, Poland, Finland, United States, Spain, Brazil, Switzerland, even Cuba.

Ever heard of the Vanuatu Islands or Republic of Belarus? They were in the CITM as well, offering the best travel deals.

But how exactly did the Philippines dodge competition in such a huge market? How could we lure the fourth largest tourist group in the country—the Chinese—to visit Boracay instead of, say, Phuket?

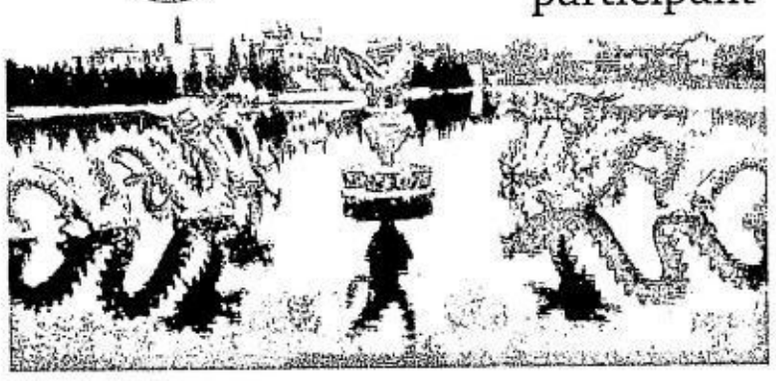
"First, we start with aggressive marketing and start with our Asian neighbors," said Tourism Secretary Eduardo Jarque. "There are tie-ups with airlines to lower ticket prices. Foreign businessmen are also investing not only in key areas like Manila and Cebu, but also in Marinduque where there are plans for a six-star hotel."

While Koreans still comprise the bulk of tourists in the Philippines, the Americans, Japanese and Chinese visitors are also traveling to Manila, Cebu, Bohol, Davao and Palawan.

Sports and spa

Singapore is a favorite of techies. Indonesia has its spas, India offers enlightenment and Thailand its sex tourism. What exactly is the key product of the Philippines?

"It's still the beaches," Jarque said. True enough, Chinese visitors from Kunming inquired about the diving spots in Palawan, Balicasag, Tubbataha. The Camarines Watersports Complex in Bicol is also getting much buzz from watersports junkies. And surfing sites in Zambales, Baler, Samar and Pagudpod in Ilocos are also said to be in the works.



A trip to downtown Kunming led us to a store which we thought were selling perfumes. It was, in fact, an entire floor full of aromatherapy oils. And if Edsa is dwarfed by cosmetic-surgery billboards, Kunming's highways are filled with aromatic-oil ads.

"Spa and wellness tourism is also gaining ground, the Chinese tourists go to beauty and fitness salons a lot," Jarque said. "They are pretty crazy about nice scents."

Education tourism is also getting popular, because aside from the Chinese, Indians are also coming here to study English, not just in Manila, but in other places like Nueva Ecija, Cotabato and Dumaguete. Suburban Baguio is also popular among Koreans for its cool weather.

Volcano visit, anyone?

And who would have thought there's such a thing as volcano tourism?

"People are shocked just by seeing one," Jarque laughed. "The Koreans and Japanese are amazed with the vegetation and rich soil in the areas of Mayon, Pinatubo and Taal."

The DOT is also beefing up culinary tourism with the food-standardization project headed by the group Kulinarya.

"It could be wonderful if we could serve the same *adobo* or *kare-kare* wherever you are in the Philippines, so that the tourists would know what exactly distinguishes Filipino taste."

Even Bollywood have been tapped for film tourism. "We encourage them to shoot movies here," Jarque said. "Indians also come here for the *tiangges* in Greenhills, SM Mall of Asia and 168 Mall."

Most tourists are shopping-crazy, he said. The Chinese go for trinkets and souvenirs with "Philippines" plastered all over them, while the Japanese scout high-end malls for signature products.

A trip to Donsol is also sure to bring tourists delight. "Donsol is model for us. There's the *butanding* interaction area, spa, firefly viewing. And they strictly impose a no-touch policy to divers," explained Jarque.

Adequate amenities remain a problem, but even that has brought livelihood to local residents who have opened their homes as transient places or charming bed-and-breakfast inns.

Sunny beachfront

The 90-sqm Wow Philippines! booth was dressed up to resemble a sunny beachfront, complete with a one-hole mini-golf area. The look aims to promote diving, golf and swimming all in one blow.

DOT's "Team China" composed of Arlene Alipio, Marian Obispo and Shanghai-based Gerard Panga employed gimmicks to entice Kunming residents to drop by the booth, which got the Best in Participation award at the end of the fair.

"We gave away Mangorind candies and, on the last day, we served Figaro coffee, and they lined up all the way to the gates for a cup," Alipio said.

The Bayanihan dancers and musicians—barefoot even in freezing five-degree weather—performed the *tinikling*, *singkil* and *pandanggo* in bright costumes and even brighter smiles, which never failed to halt crowds in their tracks.

Local exhibitors Jeron Travel and Tours, Winfar Cebu Travel and Tours, Direction Travel and Tours, CK & Philippine International Travel, Panoly Resort Hotel, Best Cruises 'N Resorts, the Philippine Retirement Authority and Cebu Pacific lent the Philippine booth a festive atmosphere.

'City of Eternal Spring'

The three-day CITM affair, the biggest one in seven years, was hosted by Kunming, capital of the Yunnan province in southern China. Dubbed the "City of Eternal Spring," Kunming is being built up as a key destination in China.

Be wary of the moniker, though, as winter can kick in early. The weather dropped from 10 to 5 degrees on the first week of November, and can pretty much dip to zero by December.

While not as fast-faced like Shanghai or Beijing, Kunming boasts of a rich culture, natural scenery, impressive greens, a number of parks like the Stone Forest, Green Lake and Yunnan Ethnic Village.

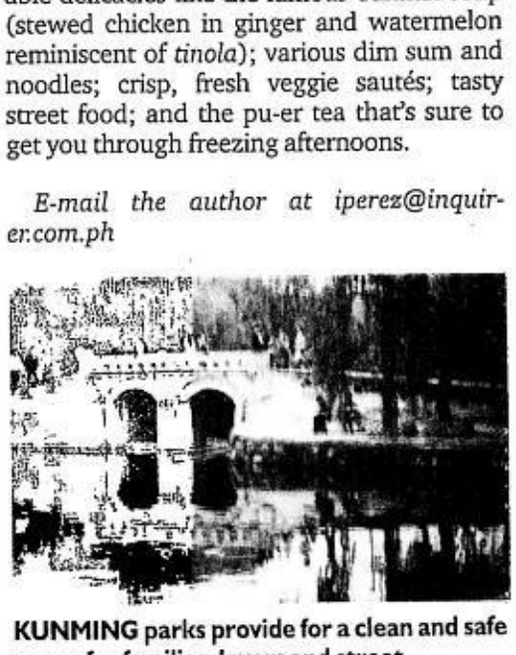
Shoppingeras may be disappointed with the city's limited malls and thrift shops, but foodies are in for a treat with yummy, affordable delicacies like the famous Yunnan soup (stewed chicken in ginger and watermelon reminiscent of *tinola*); various dim sum and noodles; crisp, fresh veggie sautés; tasty street food; and the pu-er tea that's sure to get you through freezing afternoons.

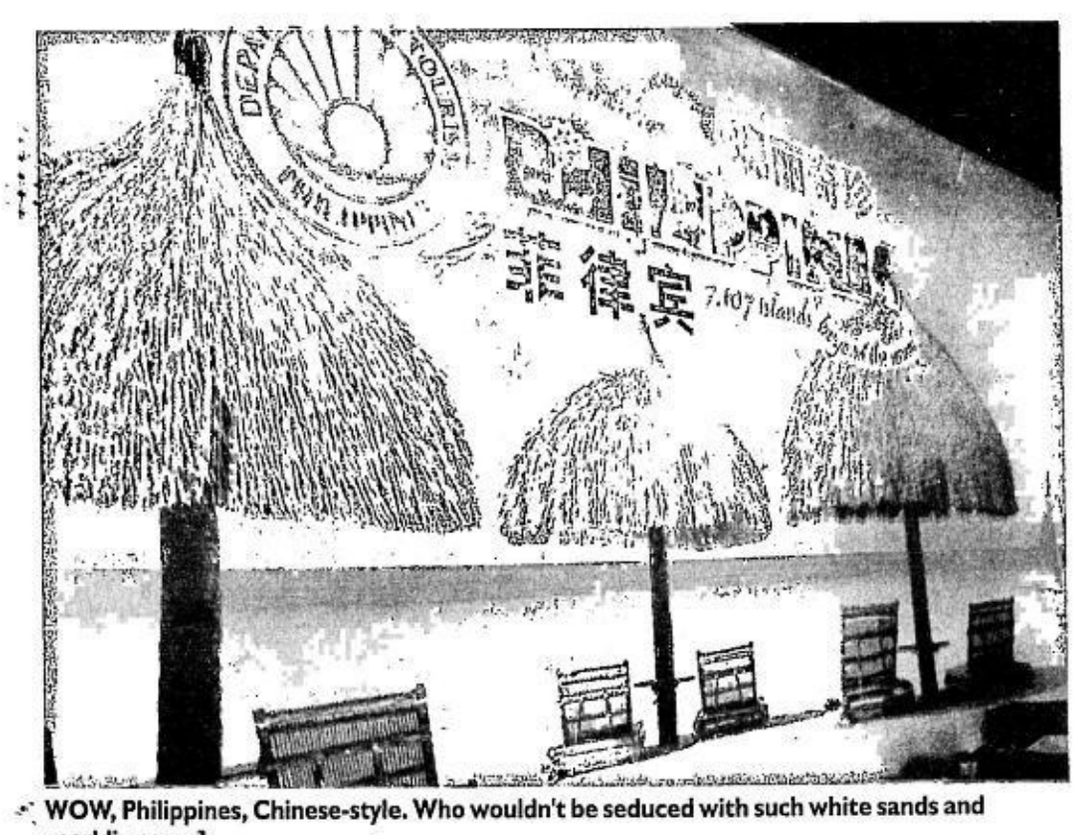
E-mail the author at iperez@inquirer.com.ph

DRAGON statues in the Yunnan Ethnic Village

GET your road maps from this fully armored dude.

ONE of the temples in Golden Temple Park


KUNMING parks provide for a clean and safe venue for families, lovers and street performers.


WOW, Philippines, Chinese-style. Who wouldn't be seduced with such white sands and sparkling seas?

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Weekender package

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A different weekend getaway, you may want to check out Weekender Putt & Pamper packages at The Suites at Mount Malarayat in Lipa, Batangas. For P12,000 or P6,000 per person, you and your partner (or golfing buddy) can have studio-type De Luxe accommodations. Or you may choose the studio-type Standard accommodations for P5,500 per person. Check in 1 at p.m. Saturday and check out on Sunday at the same time to avail of the packages. The Weekender Putt & Pamper at The Suites at Mount Malarayat is available until January (043-7563231 and 043-7560608; e-mail teeds.devera@gmail.com).

Taal regatta today

THE FIRST CLUB BALAI ISABEL Regatta will be held today, Dec. 9 at the Taal Lake Yacht Club (TLYC) in Talisay, Batangas. Filipino and foreign Hobie Cat sailors are participating in the race named after Club Balai Isabel, a five-hectare residential resort complex by the shores of Taal Lake in Talisay. Club Balai Isabel (7761521) will offer special room rates for participants and guests. The complex is an affiliate of Resort Condominiums International (RCI).

New outdoor tent

TAAL VISTA HOTEL UNVEILS its new fully air-conditioned outdoor tent, Bougainvillea. The white tent is 480 square meters (30 meters in length and 16 meters in width) with a spacious entrance foyer and an outdoor cocktails area. French windows provide a splendid view of rolling hills and a well-manicured garden. The tent is a versatile events venue that can accommodate up to 300 persons (046-4131000, (02-8864325, 7513088-89). Taal Vista Hotel is owned by SM Investments Corp. and is managed by Fuego Hotels and properties.

Special packages

EGI TAFT TOWER HOTEL offers three special party packages: the Mistletoe Package with an average of P900/head (30 persons) and P575 (100 persons or more); Reindeer Package for P975/head (30 persons) and P625/head (100 persons); Santa's Package for P1,100/head (30 persons and P710/head (100 persons). All packages are inclusive of food, event venue, guest book and pen, a round of cocktail drinks, tarpaulin backdrop and a complimentary suite with breakfast for two. Call 5670651 to 58.

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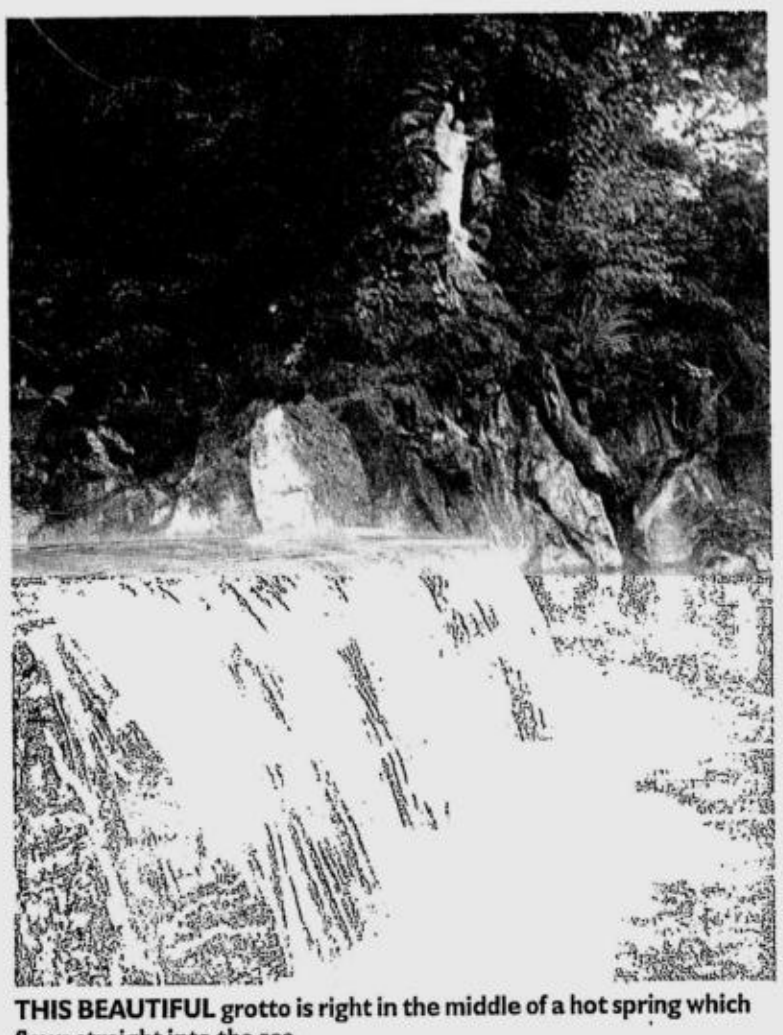
Two views of Coron



THIS BEAUTIFUL grotto is right in the middle of a hot spring which flows straight into the sea.

IT WAS A CHALLENGE THAT MASTER lensman Donald Tapan and rising commercial photographer Apple Tapan took on with keen interest.

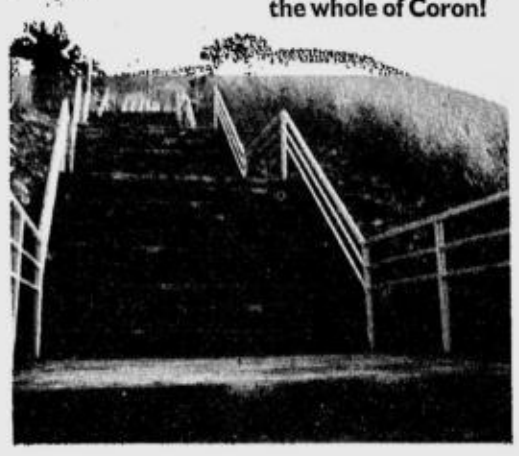
The father-daughter team received a unique invitation. Fly to Palawan via Seair and capture the islands of Coron in one weekend using only the latest 5-megapixel Sony Ericsson K850i Cyber-shot phone.

Both photographers' main concern is the quality of their images. They were particularly impressed with the K850i's range of camera functions including Photo Fix and Xenon flash.

From the "more magical" late-afternoon shots of Palawan that Donald captured, to Apple's nighttime photos, Sony Ericsson's trademark Xenon flash managed to enhance images despite low-light conditions.

In the work of these two passionate artists and from the mobile phone's remarkable imaging technology and array of features, two equally marvelous and distinct perspectives of one of the country's most famed places emerged.

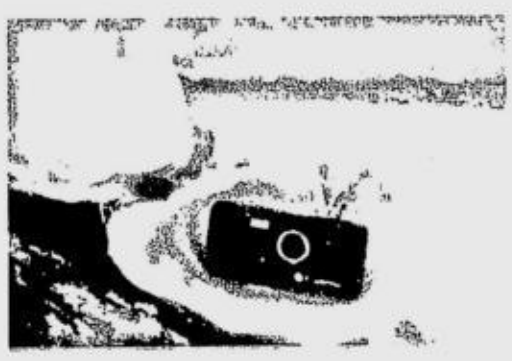
Donald's Coron is rarefied and spectacular, a lush island on an emerald-green sea sparkling under the sun. There were rocky mountain formations and a stretch of white beach.



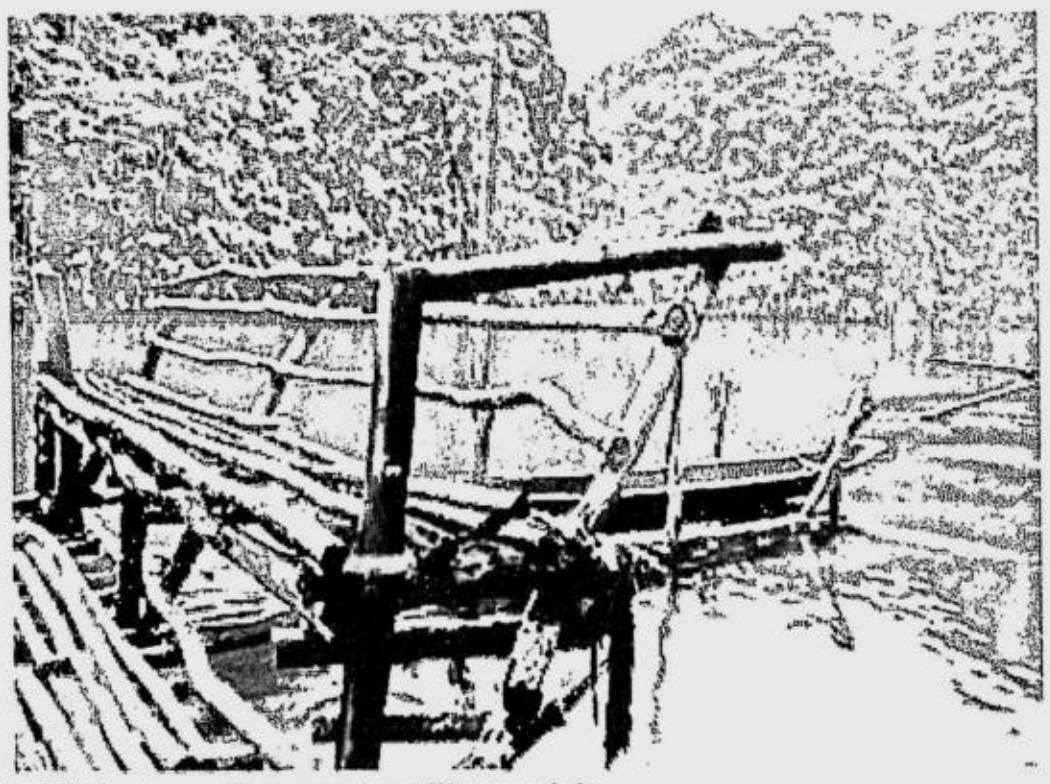
VIEW from the top is worth the effort of climbing these 600 steps. You can see the whole of Coron!

Apple's images are whimsical and also thoughtful. A solitary lounge chair seems to invite the weary soul to stop, rest and appreciate the majesty of his or her surroundings. An old local resident sits calmly atop Mt. Tapias, still awed by the beauty of the island.

BREATHTAKING view of Palawan

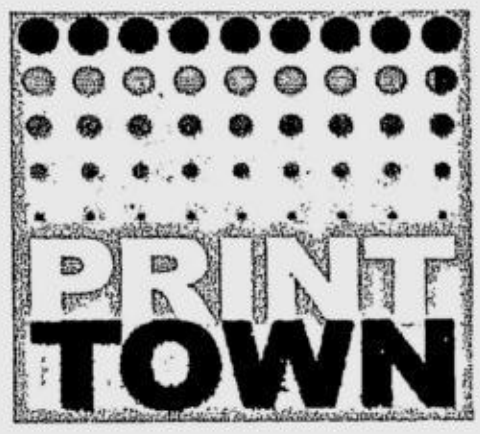


SHARE your own stories with the Sony Ericsson K850i Cyber-shot Phone



SERENE and emerald-green waters of Kayangan Lake

Printing life.



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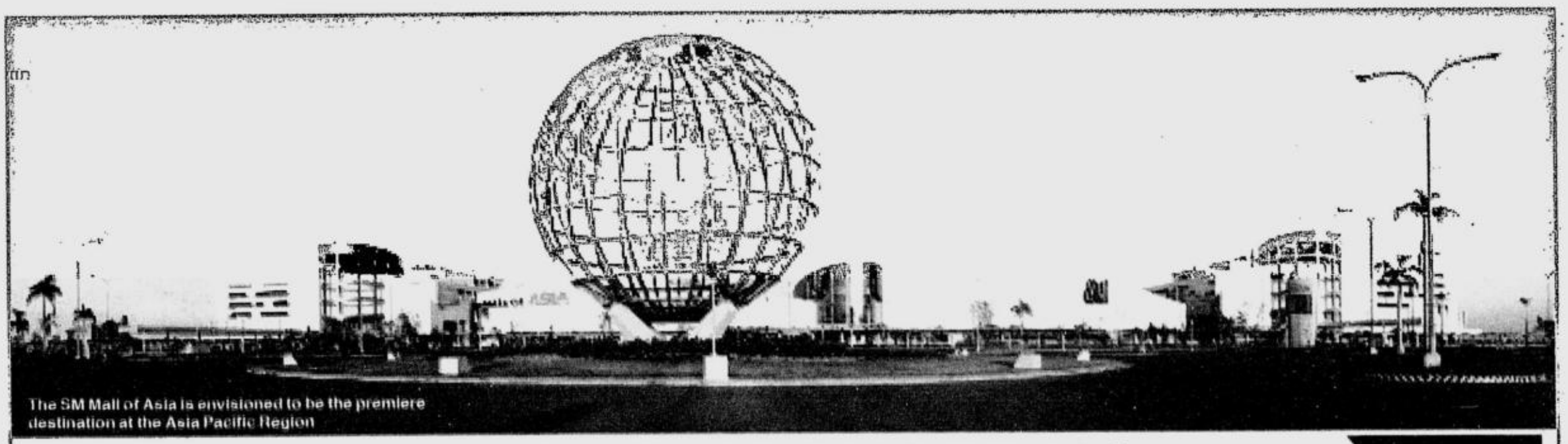


The SM Mall of Asia is envisioned to be the premiere destination at the Asia Pacific Region

MALL OF ASIA IS PRA'S SHOPPING CENTER OF THE YEAR

The SM Mall of Asia recently received the Philippine Retailer's Association's Shopping Center of the Year Award during its 2007 Outstanding Filipino Retailers and Shopping Centers of the Year Night held recently at the Crowne Plaza in Ortigas.

This is the second time that an SM Supermall has been cited by the PRA since it launched the Shopping Center of the Year Award in 2002. SM City Baguio was earlier cited in 2005.

Envisioned as the premier destination mall in the Pacific Region, the SM Mall of Asia has raised the standards of shopping, leisure, and entertainment in the Philippines.

Located in the scenic Bay City development along Roxas Boulevard in Metro Manila, it has a gross floor area of 400,000 square meters, making it the third largest mall in the world.

SM's Reg. operations mngr Steven Tan,SCMC pres Annie Garcia,SM prime holdings pres Hans Sy, PRA Chairmn Samie Lim, PCCI Chairmn Sergio Ortiz-Luis,J P.

The complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways - the Main Mall, the North Parking Building, the South Parking Building, and the Entertainment Center. With over 600 shops and 150 restaurants, it is the ultimate shopping experience.

The country's first olympic sized Ice skating rink

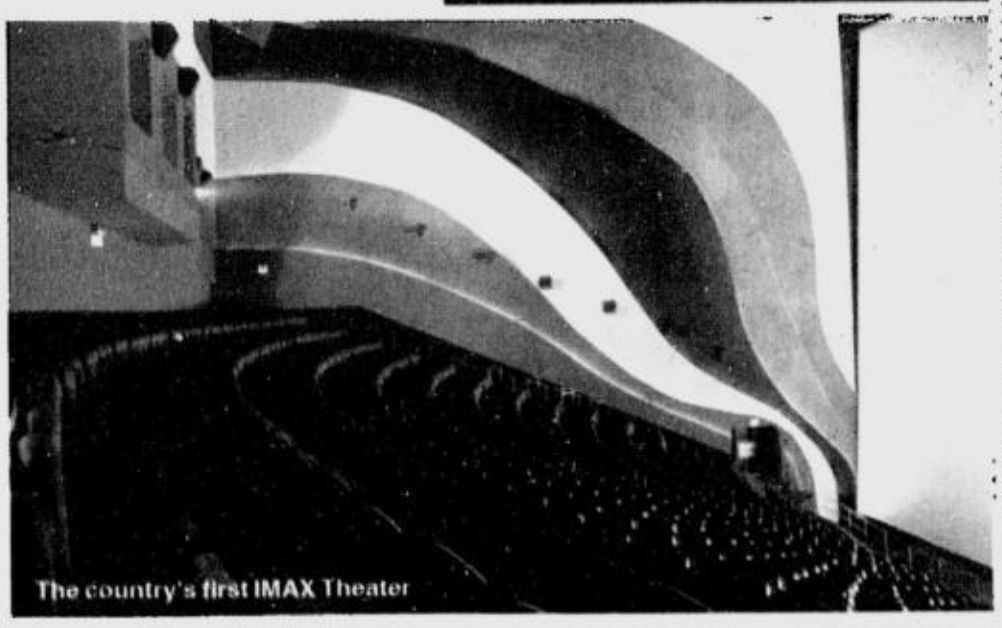
The Main Mall includes shops and restaurants, the Food Court, and the Country's first Olympic sized ice skating rink.

The South Parking Building houses the SM Department Store, while the North Parking Building includes the SM Hypermarket, two of its major anchors. The Entertainment Center Building offers a spectacular view of Manila Bay from its trendy row of restaurants. The country's first IMAX Theater is another attraction in the Entertainment Center, as are its ten cinemas, including a Director's Club for private viewing, and a Centerstage for live performances.

Getting around the mall is easy. A tram takes customers around the perimeter of the mall, while the elderly and handicapped can use of golf carts in the mall. The SM Mall of Asia has 5,000 indoor parking slots, as well as outdoor parking facilities in for customer convenience. A transport terminal servicing destinations in Metro Manila and other areas in Luzon, as well as a tax bay make traveling from the very accessible.

Since it opened its doors to a record one million customers during opening day in May 2006, the mall which SM Founder and Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. has called "the greatest project of my life" created a lot of excitement in the local shopping centers scene. It has also grown to include a fully computerized Bowling Center, and more recently a Science and Discovery Center that includes a planetarium and the world class SMX Convention Center.

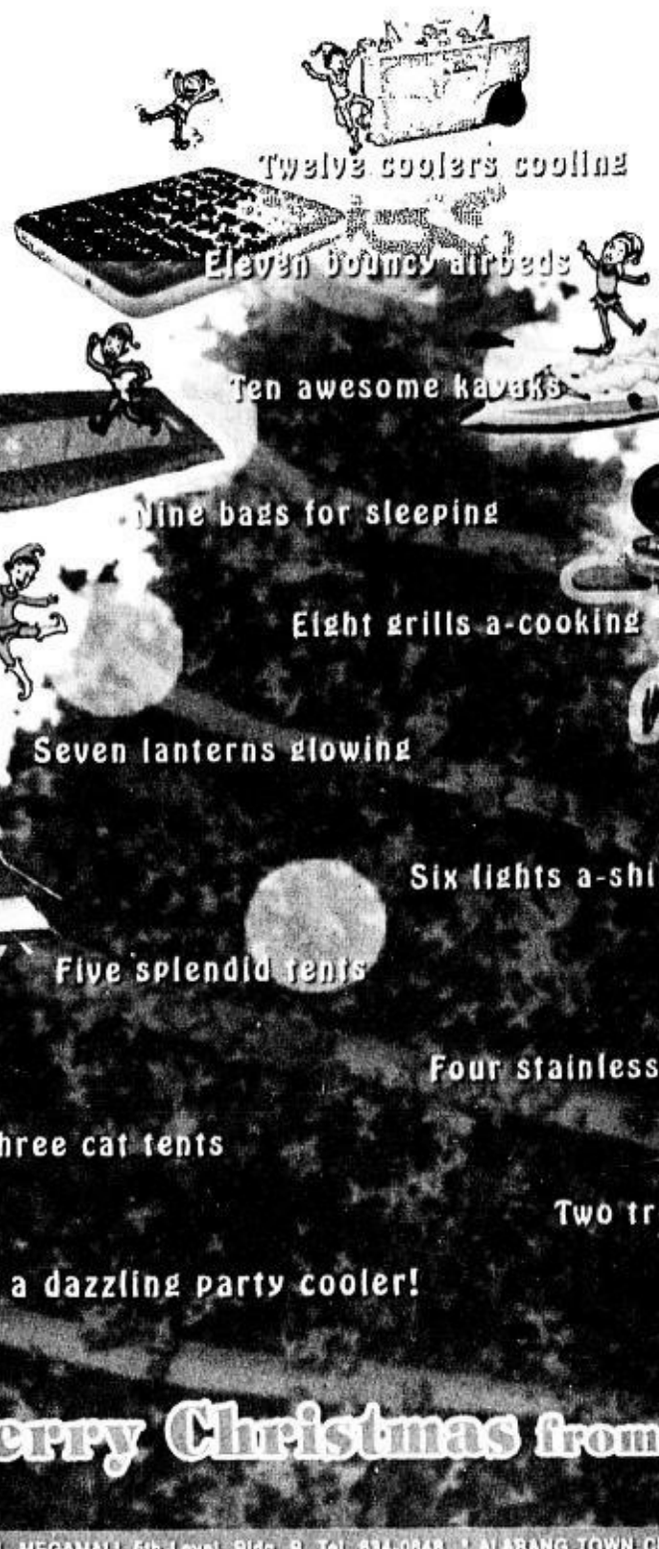
The mall's curvilinear design and the mall's grand glass curtain



The country's first IMAX Theater

12 Days of Christmas

For the twelve days of Christmas my true love gave to me:



Coleman Sales and Sevice Centers: SM MEGAMALL 5th Level, Bldg. B. Tel. 634-0848 * ALABANG TOWN CENTER 2nd Level, Expansion Mall Tel. 850-7864
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MORCON

Cabalen's fund drive for poor kids

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE holiday season is in giving and sharing no matter what we are going through. What makes Christmas even more perfect is when we learn to reach out to others especially the poor children who need our love and care.

This is the reason why Cabalen, the "Eat-All-You Can, Eat-All-You-Want" restaurant continues to hold its annual fund-raising activity now going on its 11th year called "Cabalen Para Sa Kabataan." It is a project where Cabalen sets aside a percentage of every centavo generated for the entire month of December for less privileged children.

For the past 11 years, Cabalen has shared its blessings using the money earned during the year's month-long fund drive for destitute children in Pampanga, Malabon, Pasig City and Taytay by providing the needs of poor students from public schools. The actual gift giving is set every February.

Cabalen invites everyone to celebrate their Christmas party and other special occasions by dining at any Cabalen restaurant for the entire month of December. Booking your party at a Cabalen branch near you means experiencing great tasting Filipino dishes coupled with excellent service and value for money packages with lots of freebies to enjoy.

Specialties for the month of December include Seafood's Paella, Cabalen Morcon, Bulalo with Mais, Kalderetang Baka, Lechon de Leche, Buco Pandan Salad, Hot Native Chocolate and Bico. Other renowned specialty dishes served year round include Kare Kare, Beringhe, Seafood's Gatang Sarisari, Bangus Belly Steak, Sisig and the make your own Halo-halo bar.

Cabalen also offers a wide array of homemade Pinoy Deli products such as: Taba ng Talangka, Ginisang Bagoong, Sweet Chili Sauce, Atcharang Papaya, Sasa and Sugar Cane Vinegar, Tuyo Gourmet and many more. Pinoy Deli comes in gift packs ideal for Christmas giveaway and you can also create your own Pinoy Deli baskets.

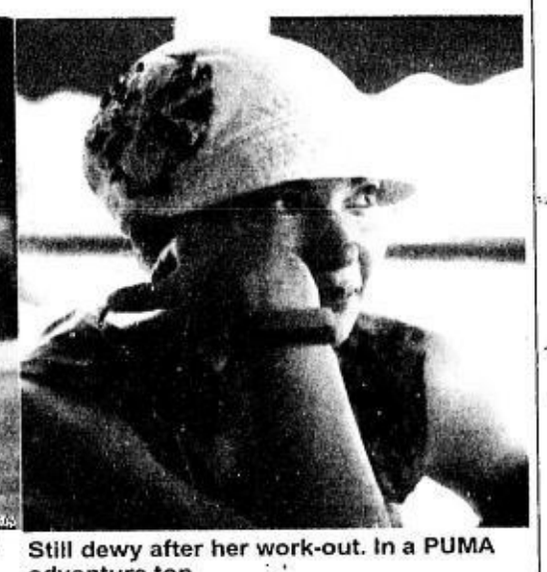
Visit Cabalen restaurants located at 67 West Avenue, QC; 2/L SM City North Edsa; 4/L Bldg B SM Megamall; 2/L Robinsons Place Manila; Glorietta 3; G/L Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando Pampanga; G/L Sta Lucia East Grand Mall; G/L SM City Clark; 2/L TriNoma Mall; Chefs Ave. Festival Mall, Alabang and the newly opened SM City Taytay.

Call Cabalen's head office at 9111584. For catering needs, call 4219220 or 9135522.

GIRL POWER

Put some PUMA in your life.

First order of the day: yoga session to balance out the senses and body. Cristina struts it out in a PUMA tank top and stretch pants.


Still dewy after her work-out. In a PUMA adventure top.

Model / fashion designer / DJ/ Yoga student Cristina Bartges shows us what total lifestyle ought to be and how you can funk-tify the drab.

There are three things Cristina can't live without - fitness, fashion and funk. There's no compromising one or the other. Her days are usually brimming with fascinating and cool things to do. An arduous session at Bikram Yoga breaks (or balances) her day. In between she has enough time to brunch with her friends and catch up. Come noon she's off to the textile market to buy new fabric for her funky hip indie clothing line "die Marie."

En route to brunch in a PUMA track jacket and monsoon boots.

Happy with new finds and cute prints, she rushes home. Not to rest but to keep working. Her new collection is coming all together with a few tucks, pins and alterations. She takes time to check out new orders on her down time, probably the only time she gets to slow down.

As night time arrives Cristina's energy takes on another level as she lugs her vinyl records to M Café to spin techno-funk grooves as resident DJ Ms. Bartges.

It's not surprising that Cristina gets through her days and nights fuss free and looking fabulous all the time. She has a unique sense of style that works and she wears PUMA.

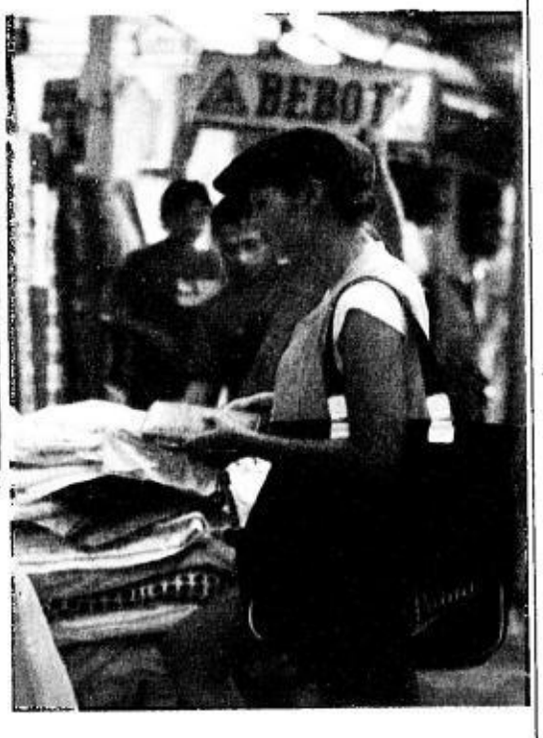
PUMA, a brand that has always been on the forefront of fashion and lifestyle while drawing inspiration from its rich sports heritage, offers footwear, apparel and accesories that are perfect for the kind of lifestyle that people like Cristina leads. Day in and day out. Wearable whenever.

PUMA's From the PUMA Archives (FTPA) line has a variety of graphic shirts, jackets, tunics, dresses, hats and bags with special vintage touches.

The Fitness Lifestyle and Mahanuala yoga line provides work-out gears for women with varying performance levels, from high to low impact. The line includes sweat jackets and pants, work-out shirts and shorts with Ultimate Sports Performance (USP) technology but all with a trendy appeal that may even be worn beyond the gym.

You can take PUMA wherever your work, sport, recreation and your passion take you. It's perfect for people who are on-the-go, smart, confident and who knows exactly what they want in life. There are no boundaries.Take Cristina's lead and experience for yourself.

Bargaining skills put to test at the fabric market. In a PUMA escapism tee, golf zip-off jacket andbutterfly tote bag.



Spin, spin, sugar. Ms. Bartges grooves in a PUMA black tunic, i like PUMA women's cap. Her vinyls are kept snug in a rebel bag.

Checking the seams and stitches of some pieces from die Marie. In a PUMA adventure dress

Checking out new orders and projects. In a PUMA graphic sweat and track pants with a Miami tote bag.

Visit the PUMA stores at Bonifacio High Street; 2nd Level, Glorietta 4 and Trinoma; Upper Ground Level, Festival Supermall; Ground Floor Limketkai Mall; 2nd Level Gaisano Mall of Davao and Robinsons Bacolod. Also available in leading department stores and shoe outlets nationwide. For more information contact 635-PUMA.

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Special thanks to Mr. Tristan Choa and Ms. Ingrid Reynolds
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367-4632
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Changing world cinema history

ACCORDING TO EARLY BUZZ, two senators, Jinggoy Estrada of "Katas ng Saudi" and Bong Revilla of "Resiklo" are eyeing the Best Actor prize in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. Alfred Vargas and Paolo Contis of "Banal" are dark horses. But Manny Pacquiao can change the history of local, if not world, cinema if he wins for "Anak ng Kumader." Best Actress bets Maricel Soriano of "Bahay Kubo" and Judy Ann Santos of "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" seem safe from the "Desperadas" onslaught.

BIG SHOW BIZ ISSUE TODAY

TV

Mini-docu on FPJ airs tonight on ABS-CBN, with music video edited by Da King /I1

FILM

What's all the fuss over "The Golden Compass"? Review says "Tickle Me, Elmo" is more subversive Review/H4

MUSIC

Raymond Lauchengco makes a concept album that should set standard for local artists /J1

Marian Rivera gives fresh face to PLDT cards

Providing a fresh face to PLDT's newest promotional campaign dubbed PLDT Load is Marian Rivera, one of the loveliest faces Philippine show business has ever produced.

With her increasing popularity now, Marian has all what it takes to give mileage to PLDT Load. And she said she's more than elated over this recent development in her career.

"This is certainly good for me and I would like to thank PLDT for the opportunity given to me, Marian said. "Advantage *po talaga sa akin ito dahil* I was told that *kakalat talaga 'yung* pictures *ko sa kung saang-saang mga* barrio, *mga tindahan*, billboards. *Malaking tulong sa akin bilang artista na makita ako ng tao.*"

Marian's popularity as *Mari Mar*, according to Retail Marketing, Card Services Center Head Cristina A. Balingit, is an advantage as she appeals to the target market of PLDT Load.

For this new promo, Marian has a 15-month contract with PLDT, which includes tri-media advertising. "Her banners will be displayed in numerous sari-sari stores nationwide. Her popularity will surely generate awareness and positive association for our PLDT prepaid cards," said Balingit.

In preparation for the project, Marian underwent product briefing with PLDT Retail Marketing and workshops prior to the TV commercial shoot and actually used Touch Cards.

Reloadable, all-in-one card

The PLDT *Pwede!* Card, launched in May 2006, was the first reloadable all-in-one card, the very first converged product or service. PLDT and Smart subscribers use the card to place local, NDD, IDD and cellular calls; as well as to surf the Internet.

Now, the PLDT *Pwede!* Card has been overlaid with the PLDT Touchcard, Budget Card Middle East and Vibe card stickers, all for the initial P30.00 load.

"We put over or *'tapal'* in Filipino the original *Pwede!* Card designs with stickers bearing Touch Card, Budget Card Middle East and Vibe Card designs," said Balingit. "Think of it as currency or airtime that allows subscribers to make calls and surf the Internet via their reloadable PLDT cards with a new service promo called PLDT Load."

Subscriber impact

One of the highlights of the PLDT Load service, which is expected to create impact on the subscribers, is its longer validity periods. "Existing Smart Load service, for instance, offer six days validity period for a purchase of P60.00 of load while PLDT Load offers 14 days validity period for the same amount of load purchased," said Balingit.

Other PLDT Load denominations are P115, P200, P300, P500, and P1,000, with two new denominations recently introduced - P100 and P175 both with 30 days validity period.

With a P100 load, Balingit said, subscribers get additional P10 that they can enjoy in making their calls and doing the Internet.

"The P175 denomination, on the other hand, is best for the usual TelePwede users since with P60 add-on in the usual P115 load purchase, they enjoy both the incoming and outgoing capabilities in their phones," Balingit explained.

The P30 denomination has seven days validity period while P115 and P200 have 30 days. The rest of the denominations are valid for 60 days.

"With PLDT's reloadable cards, customers no longer need to keep on buying "throw-away" cards. They simply go to their *suking tindahan* or *sari-sari* stores and have their cards topped-up repeatedly," Balingit said.

For retailers who would want to start a PLDT Load business aside from their existing Smart Load, they can send text message: GET PLDT <no space> to 343 and they will receive a message for successful downloading of the PLDT Load menu.

"We have actually updated more than 500,000 Smart retailers e-load MINS with PLDT Load menu," Balingit also said.

The PLDT Load promo started October 15 this year and will end on January 31, 2008. CC:

SA PLDT CARDS
ano mang mangyari, konektado ka.

Marian Rivera
Actress / PLDT Touch Card user

Pwede na magpa-load ng PLDT Cards nang paulit-ulit.
As low as P30 for 7 days.
Pumunta na sa inyong suking tindahan or SmartLoad centers nationwide.

Sa bawat P100 load, may LIBRENG P10 ka pa!*
P100 for 30 days

PLDT Load

*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3688. Series of 2007.

Overworked, underpaid stars unite!

LET'S START WITH GOOD news this week.

The gift (toys and books) drive for underprivileged kids propelled by **Aga Muhlach**'s celebrity—Jollibee's "MaAga ang Pasko"—it on its 13th year.

Aga turned up at the launch on Thursday at Harbour Square near CCP and had a holiday conversation with us.

His most memorable Christmas, he said, was "in 1974 or '75," he couldn't tell for sure.

It's not the gifts he received that makes it stand out, he said.

"It was the first and only time, so far, that the whole clan was gathered at Tita's [Amalia's] house. We kids prepared song and dance numbers. I don't even remember the gifts, or the food—just the happiness of that occasion."

The prodigious Mandaluyong Children's Choir sang a set of carols, to which Aga listened intently. He was remembering the times he went caroling as a kid, with his pals, he told us.

Aga, caroling? He must have charmed many moms even then!

Do the math

The last female star who complained of being "overworked and underpaid" bolted her home studio in a huff.

Now, there's this scuttlebutt that the manager of a young singer-actress in another company slashes 70 percent off her earnings—largely through creative accounting. From the remaining 30 percent, another 30 percent is sliced away in commission. Do the math.

Will this studio wait till the young work horse/cash cow to pack her bags—just like its former prized talent, and it was a big one—before rectifying the onerous contract?

Up in arms

Local movie producers are planning to file a multimillion lawsuit against a post-production house that allegedly damaged their forthcoming releases. Turns out, the firm has done the same to other films in the past, but the clients kept quiet because of the post-prod firm's powerful backers.

Selective tell-all

This female celebrity scandalized the nation by divulging details of her separation from her ex-hubby.

A show biz insider complained: "Although her husband has been linked with only two women since their breakup, she has been involved with a long list of gorgeous, even younger, men. All of these hunks were mysteriously left out in that exposé." Selective tell-all?

Check, please

This actor's relationship with his manager/discoverer has always been the subject of wild speculation.

Years ago, Actor issued a check to a reporter-friend, who was aghast to discover that the account is a "conjugal" one shared by the Actor and his gay manager.

More recently, Actor was linked to a supposedly macho actor-politico.

Silence of the lambs

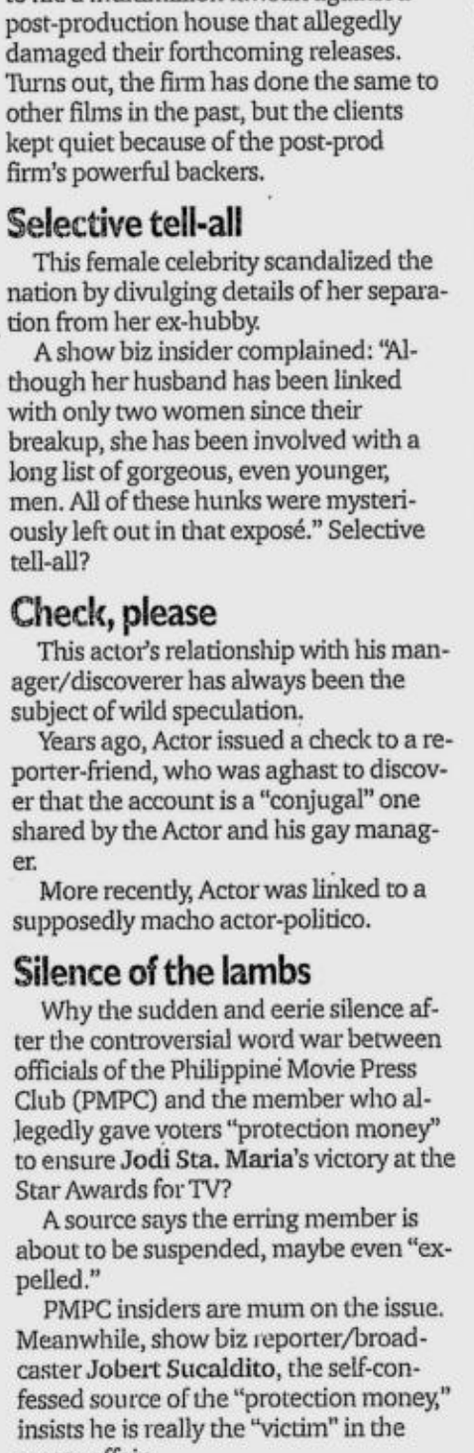
Why the sudden and eerie silence after the controversial word war between officials of the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC) and the member who allegedly gave voters "protection money" to ensure **Jodi Sta. Maria**'s victory at the Star Awards for TV?

A source says the erring member is about to be suspended, maybe even "expelled."

PMPC insiders are mum on the issue. Meanwhile, show biz reporter/broadcaster **Jobert Sucaldito**, the self-confessed source of the "protection money," insists he is really the "victim" in the messy affair.

Clash of the titans

When elephants quarrel, the roosters should hide. This Asian proverb didn't prevent an industry functionary to quip: "Sen. **Bong Revilla** is fighting with OMB head **Edu Manzano** only because he wants to promote his forthcoming Metro Manila Film Festival entry. [Either that] or he seriously wants to make sure pirates wouldn't get their hands on his movie before its Christmas premiere."



EDU MANZANO

RYAN LIM

RUSHES SUNDAY

Australian Oscar winner

MELBOURNE—Two films about the experience of migrants adapting to life in Australia have won the nation's top movie awards, with Australia's Hollywood star **Eric Bana** and China-born actor **Joan Chen** taking the top honors.

The Australia Film Institute awards, the Down Under version of the Oscars, named "Romulus, My Father" as Best Film, and its star Bana as Best Lead Actor. *Reuters*

Jail for Kiefer

LOS ANGELES — **Kiefer Sutherland** was sentenced to 48 days in jail for racking up a second drunken-driving arrest in three years and immediately reported to a city lockup.

Sutherland, who plays **Jack Bauer** on "24," won an Emmy for Best Actor last year.

Under the terms of his plea, he must also serve five years of probation, pay a $510 fine, enroll in an 18-month alcohol-education class and attend weekly alcohol-therapy sessions for six months. *AP*

Another one

LOS ANGELES — Actor **Ray Liotta** has pleaded no contest to reckless driving for crashing his car into two parked vehicles earlier this year.

Court documents released Thursday indicate the actor will face three years probation as part of a plea deal. He will also be ordered to enter an alcohol education program and pay $1,328 in restitution and fines. *AP*

When in Lima...

LIMA— A cheap hotel and a bath in an irrigation ditch — actors **Woody Harrelson** and **Owen Wilson** were apparently out to show the locals in Peru that they are not your average high-maintenance movie stars.

A local celebrity TV show aired a video Wednesday night of the two Texas natives deep in Peru's Andes bathing in an irrigation ditch wearing only boxer shorts.

Harrelson and Wilson were reportedly visiting a local orphanage they support near Cuzco, the ancient Incan capital. They stayed at hotel that cost less than US$50 a night. *AP*

Jolie's next

LOS ANGELES—**Angelina Jolie** is being lined up to star in a film inspired by the exploits of an investigator probing arms trafficking and terrorism, entertainment industry reports said Wednesday.

Jolie, recently seen in "A Mighty Heart" and "Beowulf," will play a character based on real-life spy **Kathi Lynn Austin**.

Variety reported Paramount Studios had acquired the rights to Austin's story.

Jolie is currently filming the **Clint Eastwood** drama "The Changeling," about a woman whose son goes missing in 1920s Los Angeles. (This is the title of our favorite horror movie, starring **George C. Scott**. Could this be a remake?) *AFP*

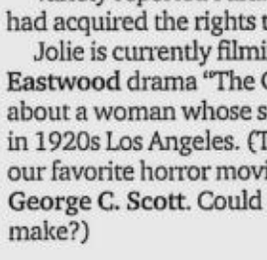
Britney, not Paris

NEW YORK—Users of online auction site eBay wanted more of **Britney Spears** than **Paris Hilton** this year.

The number of Spears-related items sold at the online auction site totaled 34,345, compared with 27,377 items associated with Hilton, eBay said this week.

Both fared better than **Lindsay Lohan**, whose name was associated with only 8,099 items sold. *AP*

* * *



BONG Revilla

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Bickering big boys

• *Bira ni* Bong *kay* Edu: *Inutil sa pagsugpo ng* 'piracy.'

• Bong *niresabakan ng* fans *ni* Doods! *"Igalang niya ang posisyon ni* Edu!"

• Edu *nagalit sa pakikialam ni* Bong *sa kanyang trabaho.*

• *Umeeksena nga ba si* Sen. Bong?

(It's a seasonal wrangling, or haven't you noticed?)

AGA Muhlach at the "MaAga ang Pasko" launch on Thursday. "I'm happy to do this," he said of the annual toys and gifts drive.

RYAN LIM

VANDOLPH and Jenny Salimao

Another tussling team

• **Richard Gomez** on **Cesar Montano**: *"Pareho kaming talunan."*

• Richard, *di kinagat ang hamon ni* Cesar.

• Goma *ayaw sa* boxing; Cesar *hinamon ng* clay shooting.

• Goma *naduwag kay* Buboy?

• Goma *at* **Dawn**, *balik-tambalan sa pelikula. (Ay, ganda.)*

Concert coup

• *Inisnab ang* concert: **Juday** *ayaw makipag-plastikan kay* **Piolo**.

• Concert *ni* Piolo *apektado ng* curfew!

• **Ai Ai, Rufa Mae** *pinerwisyo ni* **Trillanes**.

Enough *na*!

• **Kristine** *binasted si* **Oyo**; *dahil labs pa rin si* **Diether**.

• Kristine *ginawang panakip-butas si* Oyo.

• **Vic Sotto** clueless about Oyo and Kristine.

• *Sina* Kristine *at* Diether *pa rin ang magkakabalikan!*

(Those who care, show of hands, please.)

Confessions

• **Derek Ramsay**, *aminadong sumakay sa kasikatan ni* **Angelica Panganiban**. (At least he owned up.)

• *Paglipat ni* **Gladys Guevarra** *sa* Dos: "I wish her good luck."—Vic Sotto

• Manager, ABS-CBN *tinraydor ni* Gladys.

• **Jennylyn Mercado** unhappy with her TV roles. (Girl, there aren't a lot of them going around.)

• Jennylyn *urong-sulong sa paglipat sa* ABS-CBN.

• **Cristine Reyes** *naudlot ang paglipat sa* Dos *dahil kay* **Robin**.

• Cristine, *'di totoong lilipat sa* Dos!

Small and big stuff

• **Maui Taylor**, "minaliit" ang alaga ni Mo Twister. (A chihuahua?)

• **Marian Rivera**: "I'm not a sexy star."

• Marian *pinuputakti ng mga tomboy!*

• Marian *nahiya sa halikan nila ni* **Will Devaughn**.

• *Bagong sasakyan ni* Marian, *bigay ng mayamang lalake?*

• Worth P7-M *na* Range Rover *ni* Rufa Mae, *bigay lang?*

• *'Alam ni* **Benjie** *kung bakit ako umalis."*—**Jackie Forster**

Word of the month

• **Iza Calzado**, *bumuyangyang at nakipaglaplapan sa baguhang aktor.* (Guess which one? Text us your votes.)

• Iza, *humagulgol sa sobrang takot kay* **Joey de Leon**. (Kahit di siya kamukha ni **Willie**?)

• "Never *akong magpapakita ng boobs!"*—Iza

Ready or not

• **Ryan**, *tatay na tatay sa 'anak' ni* Juday!

• *"'Di ako buntis, 'di pa ako* ready!"—**Regine Velasquez**

• Wanted: *Bagong* leading man *para kay* **Lovi**.

• **Matt Evans** *at* **Melissa Ricks**, crush *ang isa't isa.*

• Matt *pinagnanasaan ang byuti ni* **Katrina Halili**.

• **Anne Curtis, Sam Milby** *buking na, humihirit pa. (Bakit sabi nila ...)*

Hits and misses

• **Mariel Rodriguez** *tinamaan kay* **Jon Avila**. (*Kaya ba* cry on departure?)

• **Zanjoe** *babakuran si* Mariel *paglabas ni* Jon *sa bahay ni Kuya.*

• Katrina Halili *nabibingi kapag naririnig ang* name *ni* Marian Rivera. (*Ibulong n'yo lang kasi.*)

• Marian *at* Katrina *nangangamoy "away"?!*

• Marian, *napaka-*trying hard *sa* 'Desperadas.' (*Desperadas nga e.*)

• Katrina *gusto nang magpakabait!*

• Katrina on Marian: We're not close but we can still be friends. (*Ang bait!*)

ROXANNE Guinoo

Not true

• **Lance Raymundo** *biktima ng alalay.*

• **Miriam Quiambao**, *may hubo't hubad na litrato sa* Internet. (*Tagal na 'to e. May pino-*promote *ba?*)

• **Mark Herras** *napipikon na sa* drugs *at* playboy issue!

• **Dennis Trillo** *idinenay ang pagdodroga; dahil wala raw siyang pambili.*

Ties and tears

• **Paolo Contis, Isabel Oli** talk about marriage.

• **Vandolph** *at* **Jenny**, *madalas magumbagan bago kinasal? (Kaya kinasal?)*

• Vandolph *iyak nang iyak habang ikinakasal; pari nagulat sa hagulgol ng aktor.* ("Till death do us part" sounds scary.)

• **Alma** *sinabayan ang pag-iyak ni* Vandolph. (Moms will be moms.)

• Dennis Trillo *naiyak nang magpasalamat sa* press.

• Juday *pinaiyak si* **Susan Roces**!

IZA Calzado

Rights, wrongs

• *Kasal nina* Vandolph *at* Jenny, *inisnab ng mga* Kapamilya. (Ha?)

• *Binigay kasi sa* GMA 7 *ang* coverage *ng kasal...*Vandolph *tsinugi sa "Palos." (Ah!)*

• **Katya Santos** *hinaras ng* veteran actor.

• Katya, idedemanda si **Cristy Fermin**?!

Dreams, nightmares

• **Roxanne Guinoo**, *araw-araw binabangungot sa piling ni* **Jake Cuenca**. (*Baka* sleepless *lang.*)

• True *ba...*Roxanne flirt, *lasengga? (Pero maganda siya ngayon, ha?)*

• Jake dumps Roxanne?

• **Sunshine Dizon** *inumaga sa inuman,* taping *nakansela.*

• Marian, **Shaina** *nagsampalan sa* shooting.

Surprises

• **Rita Avila** *gulat sa akting ni* **Rhian Ramos**.

• **Annabelle Rama** mad at **Mother Lily** again. (*Magbabati rin 'yan.*)

• **Valerie Concepcion**, *dinenay na may relasyon sila ni* Pacman! (*Kanino natakot?*)

Winning word

• Iza Calzado, *grabeng humalik!*

• Iza, *mas* aggressive *sa laplapan nila ni* **Ken Chu**!

• Iza, *naghubad sa harap ni* Ken! *Pakikipaglaplapan ni* Iza, *may basbas ng* non-showbiz BF.

(*Forget texting. "Laplapan" wins!)*

• **Ynez Veneracion** *mabenta sa* Dubai, Saipan *at* Japan!

• **Manny Pacquiao**, *baklang bakla!*

• **Andrew Schimmer**,*'di raw patitikim sa bading.*

• *Mga bading* disappointed *kay* **Chris Tiu**.

• *Tantanan na sana ni* **Aiza Seguerra** *ang pagpapa-*tattoo!

• *Malayung-malayo sa ugali ni* Piolo Pascual... **John Lloyd Cruz** *yumabang.*

• *Isyu kay* Valerie, *tinawanan ni* Manny.

• *Misis ni* Pacman *ibubuking ang "kalandian" ni* Valerie? (*Tabi-tabi po...*)

• Pacman hosts new GMA 7 reality show. (*Kaya ba may chismis?*)

Not news

• Rhian Ramos, *gumigimik para mapag-usapan.* (But who doesn't?)

• Rhian *tinawag na* flirt!

• Cancerous *na nunal sa dibdib ni* **Anne Curtis**, *ipatatanggal.*

• Vic Sotto: After the movie with **Dolphy**, I can retire. (Nice, Bossing.)

• **Jiro Manio**, *ipinaglihi sa unggoy at isda.* (Proof, please.)

Back to Dennis...

• Dennis, *nag-* sorry *sa* press! Press, *deadma kay* Dennis! (Of course.)

• Dennis wants to fix relationship with press, but not with **Carlene**? (*Nakita n'yo pa 'yun?*)

• Dennis *tinataguan ni* Carlene *tuwing dadalaw sa anak.*

• *Mga tawag ni* Dennis, *iniisnab ni* Carlene.

• *Nahuling umuuwi sa bahay ni* Dennis... Cristine *at* Dennis *nagli-*live-in *na!?*

Holiday spirit

• Lolit: *"Gusto kong makipagbati kina* Piolo *at* Sam."

• Lolit *at* Sam-Piolo, *pagbabatiin ni* Sen. **Villar**! (Sir, *kaya na nila 'yan.*)

(Thanks to Abante, Bandera, People's Journal, People's Tonight, Pilipino Star Ngayon, Remate, Tempo, Taliba, Tumbok.)

Bollywood producers meet with local film execs

READY FOR BOLLYWOOD. Philippine Film Export Services Office director Digna Santiago and Film Academy of the Philippines director general Leo Martinez (third and fourth from left) meet with (from left) Huzeifa Lokdawala of Popcorn Motion Picture Anup Gandhi of Popcorn Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Marinel R. Cruz

INDIAN PRODUCERS WHO ARE IN Manila for a week-long visit met with local industry pillars on Tuesday night to discuss the Philippines' potential as an alternative location for Bollywood productions.

"The series of meetings they had with local producers proved to be fruitful," said Philippine Film Export Services Office (PFESO) chair Digna Santiago. "They informed us of the kind of movies they want [to do here]. They also requested for DVD copies of locally produced films."

INQUIRER Entertainment was present when representatives of local production outfits met with Indian producers Aditya Raj Kapoor of Aditya Raj Kapoor Films, Yusuf Shaikh and Ravi Lilaramrai Singhani of Maverick Productions, Vivek Narendara Bora and Ashok Narendal Bora of Bora Brothers Entertainment Co., Huziefa Lokdawala and Anup Gandhi of Popcorn Motion Picture PVT Ltd. and independent filmmaker Thomas Puig. Among the local executives present were GMA Films' Jose Marie Abacan, Star Cinema's Tess Fuentes, Viva Entertainment's Vincent del Rosario, Unitel Pictures' Tony Gloria and MLR Films' Joji Alonso. National Artist for Film Eddie Romero was also present.

Other VIPs were: Film Development Council of the Philippines chair Jacky Atienza; presidential consultant for entertainment Vic del Rosario; Department of Tourism representatives Ainah Asirit and Glenn Agustin; filmmakers Joey Romero, Tikoy Aguiluz and Cirio H. Santiago; Cultural Center of the Philippines president Nestor Jardin; and Film Academy of the Philippines director general Leo Martinez.

Earlier that day, the foreign guests toured the offices of technical service providers Optima Digital, RoadRunner, Starlab in Makati City and Optimacolor in Taguig City. On Wednesday morning, the group left for Palawan.

Today, the Indian delegates will visit the movie production hub Funtasia Entertainment Philippines in Clark Field, Pampanga. They are also set to visit Bigfoot, a Cebu-based production facility and film school, Santiago said.

Visually elaborate . . .

From page H4

tle between two powerful, armored polar bears, voiced with ire and gravitas by Ian McKellen and Ian McShane; since this is the film's signature sequence and we know it's coming, much of "The Golden Compass" feels like a waiting game until it arrives.

A bit dragging

But the whole thing is a bit of a drag, even given the sprightly energy of our heroine, 12-year-old orphan Lyra Belacqua, played by newcomer Dakota Blue Richards.

Lyra lives as a ward of the prestigious Jordan College and enjoys spending her afternoons prowling about, looking for trouble with best pal Roger (Ben Walker). Then one day she receives from the headmaster the last remaining golden compass—a device that provides the true answer to any question—and must use it to find other children who've been abducted by a government body that wants to rid them of free will. (It's supposed to make them happier and promote peace.)

She gets her chance once she meets Kidman's Marisa Coulter, the world traveler with obviously nefarious plans who befriends Lyra and whisks her away in a zeppelin-style flying machine to the snowy north. With her icy features, Kidman oozes old-school Hollywood glamour, and her entrance in a glittering, form-fitting gold gown is a stunner.

Also along for the ride is Lyra's animal companion Pantalaimon (voiced by Freddie Highmore), her own personal "daemon," which everyone has. It's a furry manifestation of a human being's soul, which feels all the same pains and joys and thinks the same thoughts. Pan, as he's known, can shift from appearing as a tiny mouse when he's frightened to a big, mean kitty when provoked; Mrs. Coulter, meanwhile, has an impish, monkey-looking thing, which she likes to slap around. (This probably wasn't supposed to be funny, but it is.)

Too complicated

Once she escapes the wicked Coulter's clutches, Lyra finds an eclectic mix of allies in a traveling band known as the Gyptians, Texas aviator Lee Scoresby (Sam Elliott, who could do this in his sleep), the good witch Serafina Pekkala (Eva Green) and, of course, McKellen's enormous and enormously misunderstood bear, Iorek Byrnison. Yes, it's all as complicated as it sounds.

Someone we don't see enough of, though, is Daniel Craig as Lyra's uncle, Lord Asriel. Craig is woefully underused as an explorer and scientist who believes there's some sort of dust floating around that connects us to parallel universes—but by investigating this discovery, he puts himself in danger. (One scene in which he goes gallivanting about in the rugged ice and snow is reminiscent of the kind of adventure Craig would have as James Bond. It only serves as a glaring reminder that he's capable of so much more.)

Anti-Christian?

Oh yes, and about that tizzy that Pullman's writings are anti-Christian, and that "The Golden Compass" foists atheism on malleable, unsuspecting children—any reference to religion is totally vague and up for interpretation. The evil body trying to manipulate young minds isn't any specific church but rather the broadly imposing Magesterium.

"Tickle Me, Elmo" is more subversive. *Christy Lemire, AP*

Classic rock tees, Hendrix album deliver big bucks in NY auction

NEW YORK—AN AUCTION AT CHRISTIE'S of rock 'n roll memorabilia from some of the hottest bands of the 1960s and '70s hauled in big bucks Friday, including $20,000 for a Jimi Hendrix album and more than $4,000 for a Rolling Stones' T-shirt.

A copy of Hendrix's "Axis: Bold as Love" album from 1968—inscribed "Thanks for everything" and accompanied by three color photos of the rock star—sold for double its pre-sale estimate of $10,000. Three cardboard posters for Hendrix concerts in 1968 and 1969 fetched $10,625, $16,250 and $18,750.

Limited edition

The limited edition, long-sleeved sweater designed to promote the Stones' 1973 "Goat's Head Soup" album sold for $4,750. Only about a dozen of them were produced.

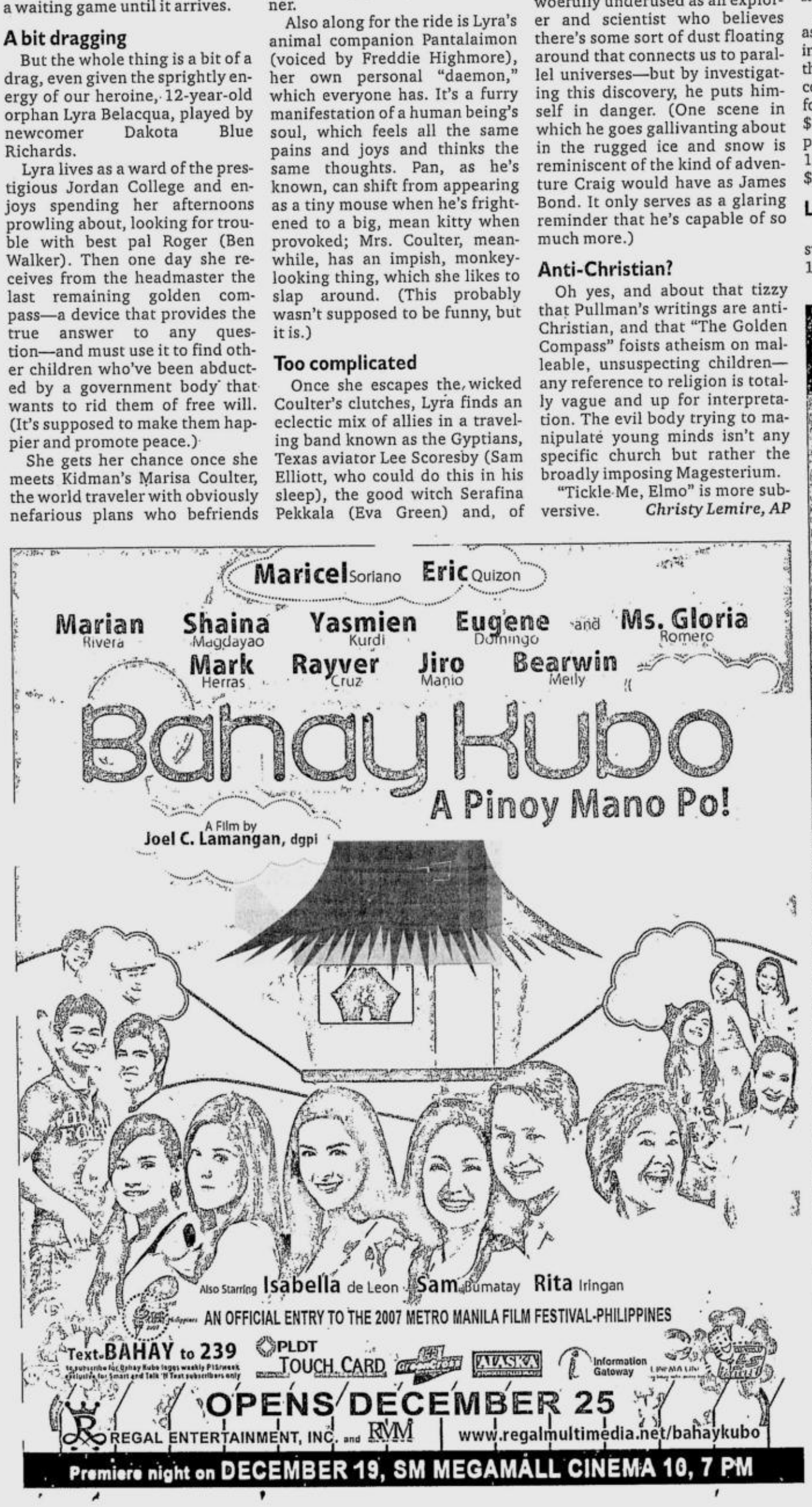
Of the T-shirts, a Yardbirds shirt worn by rock journalist Greg Shaw to the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival brought $3,000 while a maroon Led Zeppelin 1973 shirt fetched $1,625.

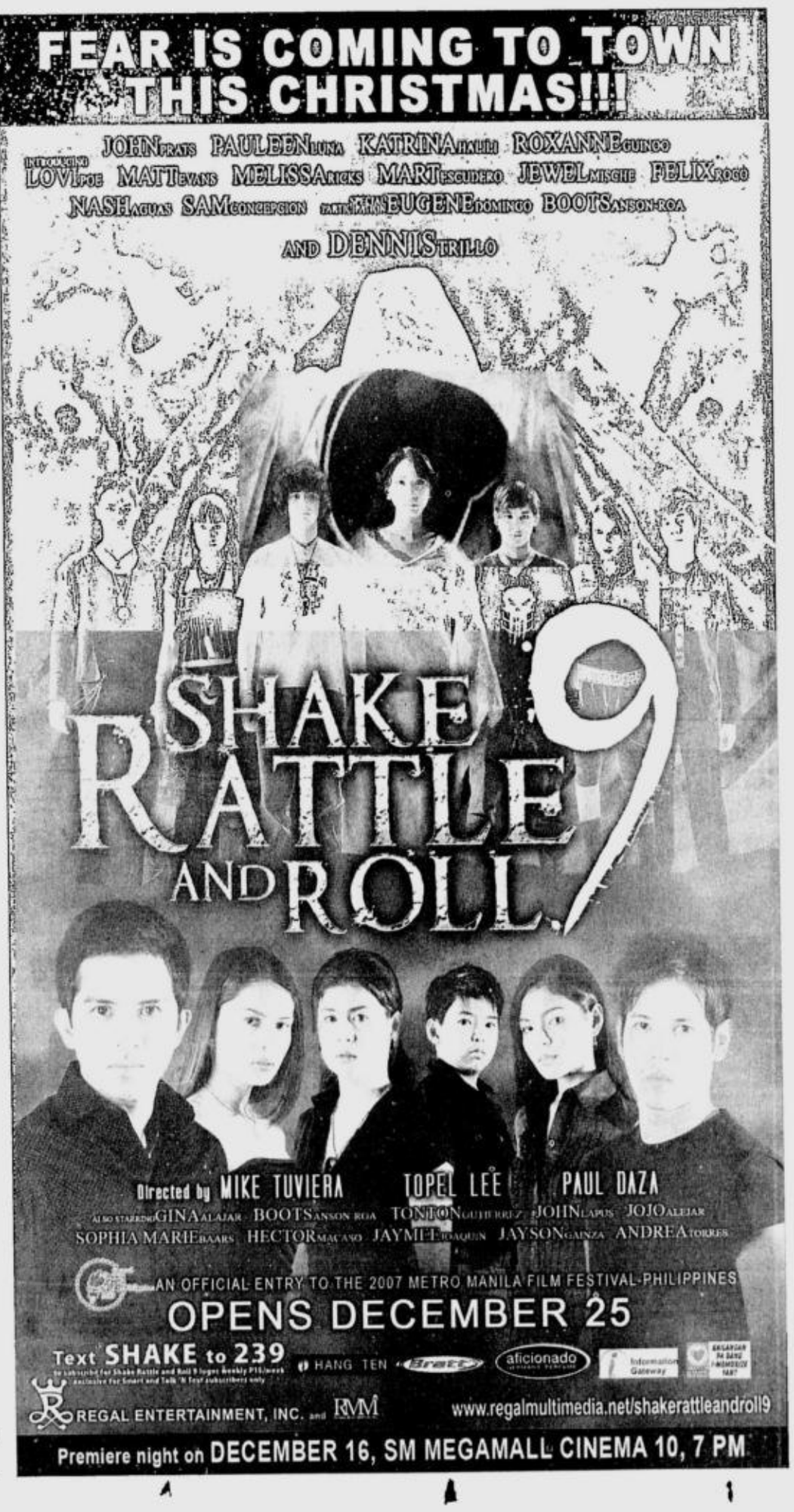
DID YOU KNOW...

A short-sleeved white shirt with green sleeves with the words "War is over! If you want it" from the John Lennon song "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)," sold for $1,875, just below its $2,000 estimate.

The auction house said all the T-shirts were bought by US private collectors except for the John Lennon one, which was acquired by an institution it would not name.

The prices included the buyer's premium. *AP*





Visually elaborate but cold to the touch

'Golden Compass' drags ... and disapppoints

NEW YORK—NICOLE KIDMAN'S PRESence in the elaborate fantasy flick "The Golden Compass" is emblematic of the movie itself: aesthetically lush but ultimately cold to the touch.

This adaptation of the first novel in British writer Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy has some fanciful moments but never achieves the sense of awe-inspiring wonder of the "Lord of the Rings" films, to which comparisons will be inevitable. It's also probably too scary for a lot of kids, with its themes of totalitarianism and mind control; adults, meanwhile, may find it hard to take seriously, despite how seriously it takes itself.

Writer-director Chris Weitz ("About a Boy") takes on the biggest project of his life with this CGI-filled spectacle, which he also had to cram with tons of exposition to set up a potential series. The visual highlight is supposed to be the bat-

VISUALLY/ H3

EVA Green as good witch Serafina Pekkala

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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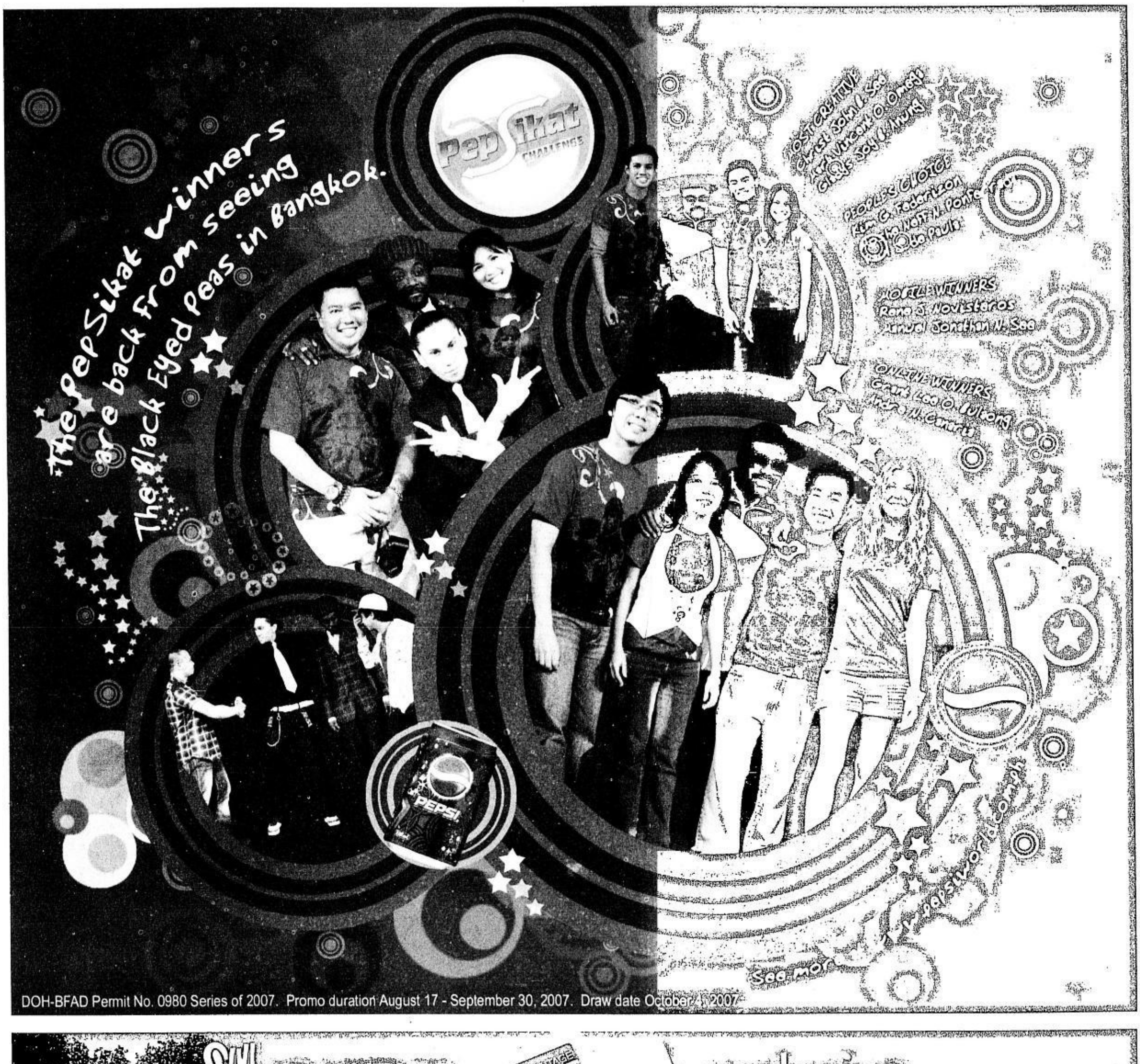

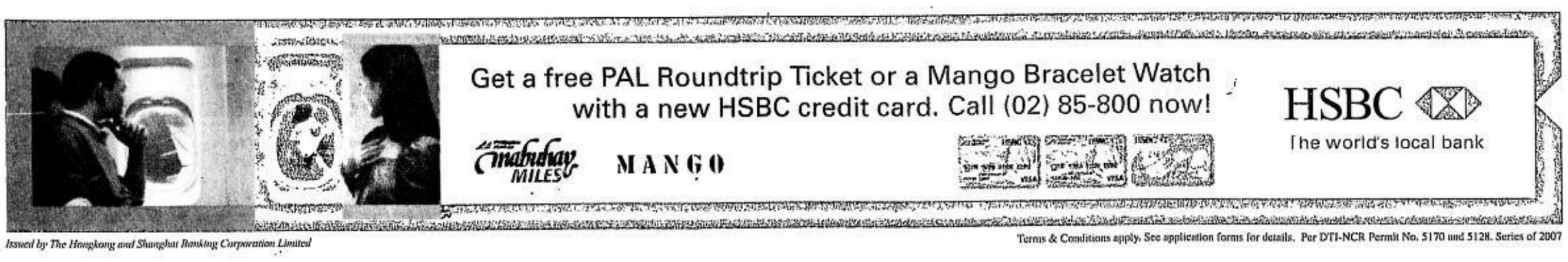

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DOCU staff including director Jeannette Ifurung (third from left), executive producers Kara Alikpala (fourth from right) and Veronica Pantig (third from right) pose with Comedy King Dolphy. Above, "Batang Quiapo" co-star Maricel Soriano pays tribute to Da King.

FPJ forever

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASIANEYE PRODUCTIONS

Although it's entitled "Alay ni Da King," this new docu is more appropriately the industry's offering to the late National Artist

THE STAFF OF ASIANEYE PRODuctions tried to watch all of the 200-plus films made by Action King Fernando Poe Jr. in putting together the new TV special "Alay ni Da King," which airs tonight on ABS-CBN.

It was daunting.

"We divided the work," says Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, AsianEye executive producer. Until the final taping day last week, the staff was still watching FPJ's flicks, says executive producer Veronica Alcaneses-Pantig.

In previewing the films for possible footage, director Jeannette Ifurung belatedly realized that she had been an FPJ fan in her younger years. "Two of my favorite movies as a kid were 'Prinsesa Naranja' and 'Anak ng Bulkan.'"

Precious anecdotes

Through various interviews, Ifurung also realized that the real FPJ was generosity personified. "It was a common theme in all our interviews, that he was a giving person," says Ifurung.

It went beyond financial matters, Alikpala notes. "What stood out was the kind of man he was. Everyone interviewed said FPJ made them feel as if he or she was the most special person. He was thoughtful. When my friend [actress] Maritoni Fernandez was diagnosed with cancer, he called and checked on her often."

Precious anecdotes that shed light on the man and the icon emerged from their conversations with both celebrities and ordinary folk.

Among the interviewees are industry legends Dolphy and Eddie Garcia, co-stars Maricel Soriano and Caridad Sanchez, sister Elizabeth and daughter Grace—even fellow "Lo Waist Gang" member Boy Francisco.

The special was divided into three parts, to be hosted by Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos (FPJ the Artist), "Aguila" co-star Christopher de Leon (FPJ the Friend) and Mowelfund head Boots Anson-Roa (FPJ the Idol).

ABS-CBN exec Charo Santos also conducted a sit-down interview with his widow Susan Roces, says Alikpala.

At first, AsianEye staffers were a bit worried about gathering big stars with their busy schedules. Turned out, there was no need to fret.

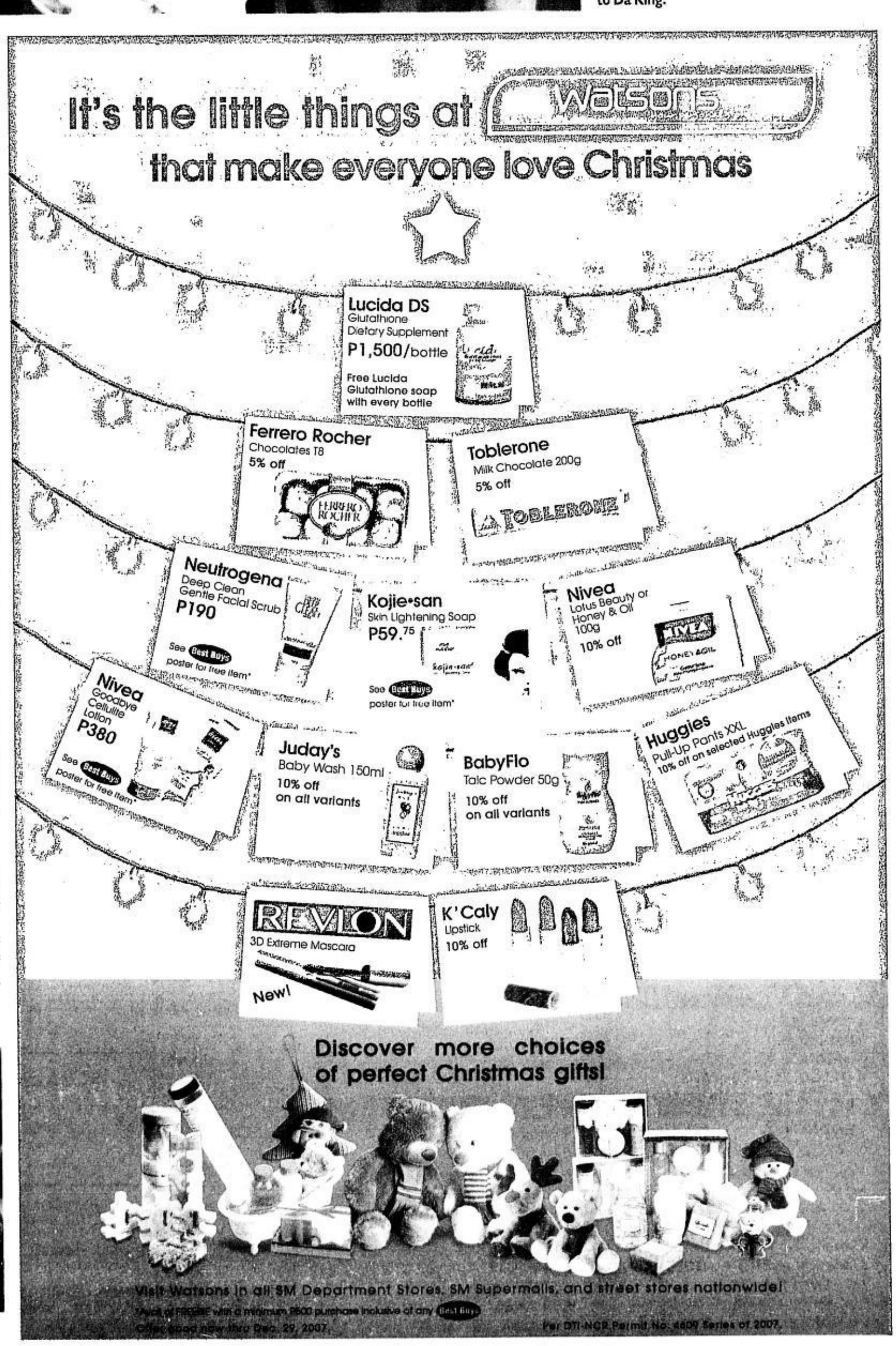
Anything for Ron

"I made time for this project," says Gov. Santos. "I'd do anything for Ron and Ate Susan, without asking for anything in return."

At the end of the special, Roces is set to introduce the 38-minute

FPJ/ I4

JAMIE Wilson as an FPJ clone and segment host Boots Anson-Roa



'Disempowering'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR YEARS NOW, WE HAVE BEEN WARNING members of the local show biz audience not to pay too much attention to awards for ostensibly outstanding work in the entertainment field.

It isn't that we're against awards per se. Like many viewers, we believe that good work should be recognized and rewarded, so that industry people will keep striving to do their best, and other workers will be motivated to serve the public better.

Unfortunately, some industry workers

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GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P180 130 Indie Sine: 130 632-9118

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS • THX
2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 MR. MAGORIUM's 12:00 2:00
THE GOLDEN COMPASS 4:00 6:30 9:00

3 indieSine: KONTRA AGOS
1:00 3:30 6:30 8:30 10:00

4 EASTERN PROMISES
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

5 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

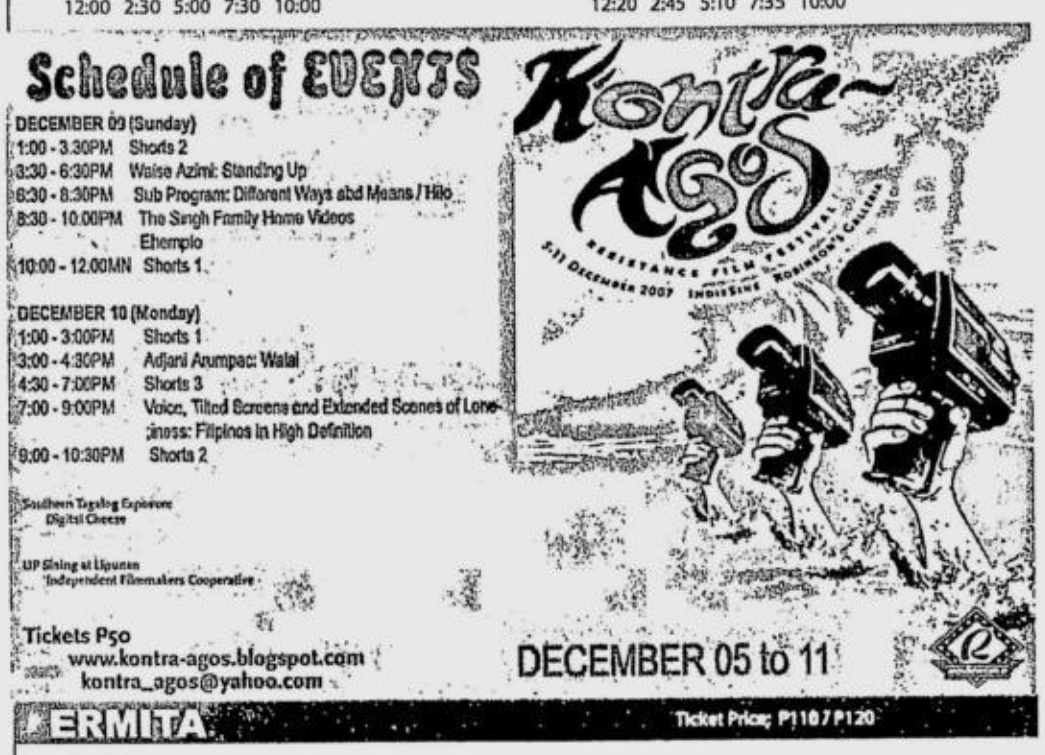
6 HITMAN
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

7 ENCHANTED 12:40 3:00
THE KINGDOM 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 BATANES
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

9 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 BEOWULF
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00



ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

2 indieSine: TUKSO
12:55 2:40 4:25 6:10 7:55 9:40

3 BEOWULF 12:00 2:10 4:20
HITMAN 6:35 8:20 10:00

4 MR. MAGORIUM's 12:30 2:15
THE GOLDEN COMPASS 4:40 7:00 9:25

5 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40

6 THE KINGDOM 11:35 1:40 3:45
ENCHANTED 5:50 7:55 10:00

7 PASUKOB
Midtown 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00

1 EASTERN PROMISES
12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00

2 BATANES
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.

showing at Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA
DECEMBER 05 to 11

METRO EAST

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1 ENCHANTED
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 PASUKOB
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

3 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:25 9:00

4 THE KINGDOM
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

5 BEOWULF 12:30 2:35
HITMAN 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
1:40 4:10 6:40

7 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

8 BATANES
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 PASUKOB
3 ENCHANTED
4 BATANES

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
3 PASUKOB
4 BATANES

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 FRED CLAUS
3 PASUKOB
4 BATANES

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1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 PASUKOB
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 BATANES

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 GAEM PLAN
2 HITMAN
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 PASUKOB
5 BATANES

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8168

1 PASUKOB
2 THE KINGDOM
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 BATANES

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 GAME PLAN
2 PASUKOB
3 BATANES
4 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

TARLAC

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 BEOWULF
3 BATANES

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 876-1927

1 ENCHANTED
2 BATANES
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 PASUKOB
5 GAME PLAN
6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 GAME PLAN
3 indieSine: KONTRA AGOS / PASUKOB
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 LIONS FOR LAMB
6 BATANES

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 338-8070

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 THE KINGDOM
3 PASUKOB
4 GAME PLAN
5 BATANES
6 WE OWN THE NIGHT

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Ortigas Cinerama

1 (DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF / HITMAN
4 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 THE KINGDOM
3 BATANES
4 PASUKOB

Starmall

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150

3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BATANES
5

Metropolis Star Cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433894

1 BATANES
2 PASUKOB
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 BEOWULF

THEATRES

All Pacific Mall Celebration
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1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 PASUKOB
3 BATANES

Pacific Mall Lucena CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 PASUKOB
3
4
5

Filinvest Festival Cinema

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) EASTERN PROMISES
2 (DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS
3 (DTS) PASUKOB / HITMAN
4 (DOLBY DTS) ENCHANTED
5 (DOLBY DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS
6 (DOLBY DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS
7 (DOLBY DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
8 (DOLBY DOLBY) RESERVED
9 (DOLBY DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
10 (DOLBY DOLBY) BATANES

Blue Wave Marikina

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
2 (DOLBY) BATANES
3 (DOLBY) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
4 (DOLBY) PASUKOB

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 THE GOLDENT COMPASS
5 BATANES

Marketplace

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 BATANES
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 PASUKOB

Masagana Cinema

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 PASUKOB
2 THE GOLDENT COMPASS
3 BATANES

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS / BEOWULF
2 THE GOLDENT COMPASS

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DTS) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
2 BATANES
3 (DTS EX) PASUKOB
4 GAME PLAN

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PASUKOB
2 BATANES

Eastwood Cinemas

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
2 (DOLBY) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
3 (DOLBY) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
4 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM

Cinema 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 BATANES
2 (DTS) PASUKOB
3 (DOLBY) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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1 BATANES
2 PASUKOB
3 (DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS

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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 BATANES
2 PASUKOB
3 (DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 (DTS) BEOWULF

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Pandel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 GOLDEN COMPASS
2 BATANES
3 (DOLBY) PASUKOB

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 BATANES
2 PASUKOB

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 GHOST SON
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) BATANES
2 SABIK SA PAG IBIG
3 LAMAT
4 (DTS) PASUKOB

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) THE GOLDEN COMPASS
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winners of dubious awards

want to have their cake and eat it, too. In other words, they want to continue to do mediocre or irresponsible work, and still be hailed as admirable achievers in the field. And they're prepared to pay for that coveted trophy—that they in fact don't deserve to get.

Some awards committees or jurors sell that prized trophy to the highest bidder–and sometimes to more than one contender

'Non-winning buyers'

Even more unfortunately, some awards committees or jurors are only to eager to sell that prized trophy to the highest bidder.

Most unfortunately of all, they are so eager to make a (big) buck that they sometimes sell one trophy—to more than one star or industry worker.

Trouble is, when the "non-winning buyers" complain, the scandal hits the fan—and the media. For some days or weeks, a fetid cloud of doubt and accusations hangs over the award in question. But, after another fresher scandal erupts, the awards controversy is forgotten, and its perpetrators are pretty much free to make hay again next year.

Corruption, incompetence

Other awards aren't plagued by corruption, but by incompetence. Their jurors mean well, but aren't able to pick the most deserving entries, so their decisions are similarly flawed, and shouldn't be paid attention to, as well.

Then, there are the awards that have been put up to please the organizers' friends or favored colleagues. No money is actually exchanged, but the "ego rub" is similarly suspect because "winners" are chosen for their clout, rather than for their actual achievements.

There *are* awards that are quite on the up-and-up, and we congratulate their organizers for being rigorously objective in a field that has generally become subjective.

Sad to say, however, these "OK" groups are in the minority, so our general rule should still be: Don't give most entertainment awards the importance they don't deserve. This is the show biz audience's only way to rob "winners" of dubious awards of the "distinction" that shouldn't be theirs.

This needs to be done, because some undeserving "winners" aren't content to just receive their trophy, they even go out of their way to boast about their "triumph."

Trouble is, some viewers and readers may not be aware that the "winner" is undeserving, so they get a completely wrong idea of what "excellence" in the field is supposed to be.

That's truly unfortunate, because it further lowers the already diminished standards for outstanding work that are currently prevalent in the field.

If our standards keep going down the drain, why bother to give awards at all? Why, indeed.

Imax 30 Experience

"The Polar Express: An Imax 30 Experience" aims to delight kids and adults alike when it plays at the San Miguel Coca-Cola Imax Theater at SM Mall of Asia starting Dec. 15. The film stars Tom Hanks and is directed by Robert Zemeckis.

Limited edition albums

Nina and Christian Bautista have released special limited editions of their latest albums.

Disc 1 of Bautista's compilation features Christmas carols, while Disc 2 focuses on love songs.

Nina's compilation includes five Barry Manilow hits and bonus tracks.

Taiwan set to welcome its beloved 'rock star'

HONG KONG—ANG LEE HAS BEEN TREATed like a rock star on his home island after winning Oscars for his kung fu hit "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and the gay romance "Brokeback Mountain."

The US-based Taiwanese director was set to return to another hero's welcome yesterday for the 44th Golden Horse Awards ceremony in Taipei, the Chinese-language equivalent of the Oscars. His spy thriller "Lust, Caution" is up for 11 prizes, including Best Director and Best Picture.

Close watch

Lee's every move is closely watched by the Chinese-speaking world and his new film—about the sexually charged relationship between an undercover activist and the Japanese-allied spy chief in World War II-era Shanghai—is no exception.

The movie was a box office hit both in Taiwan and mainland China and generated much discussion about its steamy sex scenes, which were cut in China. It also rekindled interest in famed writer Eileen Chang, who wrote the short story on which the movie was based.

Competition

Veteran Hong Kong actor Tony Leung Chiu-wai, who played the spy chief in "Lust, Caution," is up for the Golden Horse Best Actor trophy, and Chinese newcomer Tang Wei, who played the activist, was short listed for Best Actress. The screen writers—James Schamus and Wang Hui-ling—are competing for Best Adapted Screenplay.

In the Best Picture race, "Lust" is competing against Taiwanese director Niu Chen-zer's political satire "What on Earth Have I Done Wrong?!," Chinese director Zhang Yang's "Getting Home," and Tony Ayres' "The Home Song Stories."

Lee faces off with Chinese filmmaker Jiang Wen ("The Sun Also Rises"), Hong Kong's Derek Yee ("Protege") and Yau Nai-hoi ("Eye in the Sky") for Best Director.

Tough field

Leung and Tang are in a tough field in the best acting competitions. Leung's biggest rival may be two-time Golden Horse Best Actor winner and fellow Hong Konger Aaron Kwok, nominated for playing a dogged private investigator in "The Detective."

Also competing are Chinese comedian Zhao Benshan, who played a Chinese worker who tries to carry his friend's corpse home in "Getting Home" and Gurmit Singh, who portrayed a government janitor who switches bodies with his hated female boss in the comedy "Just Follow Law."

ALL EYES on Ang Lee AP

Tang faces veterans Joan Chen and Rene Liu. Chen played a Hong Kong nightclub singer who moves to Australia in "The Home Song Stories" and Liu a police officer who investigates kidnappings in "Kidnap." The fourth nominee is Li Bingbing, nominated for "The Knot," a tearjerker about lovers separated by the political divisions between mainland China and Taiwan.

Lee's every move is closely watched by the Chinese-speaking world and his new film is no exception

Pullout

But all eyes are on Lee to see if "Lust, Caution" can become another success story, with the Golden Globe Awards and Oscars coming up. The film won the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year.

This year's awards were overshadowed by the pullout of two Chinese movies—"Tuya's Marriage" and "Blind Mountain"—over a Chinese rule that bans movies with exclusive Chinese investment to compete at the Golden Horse Awards.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949 and remain separately ruled, but Beijing claims the self-ruled island as its territory and has threatened to retake it by force. *AP*

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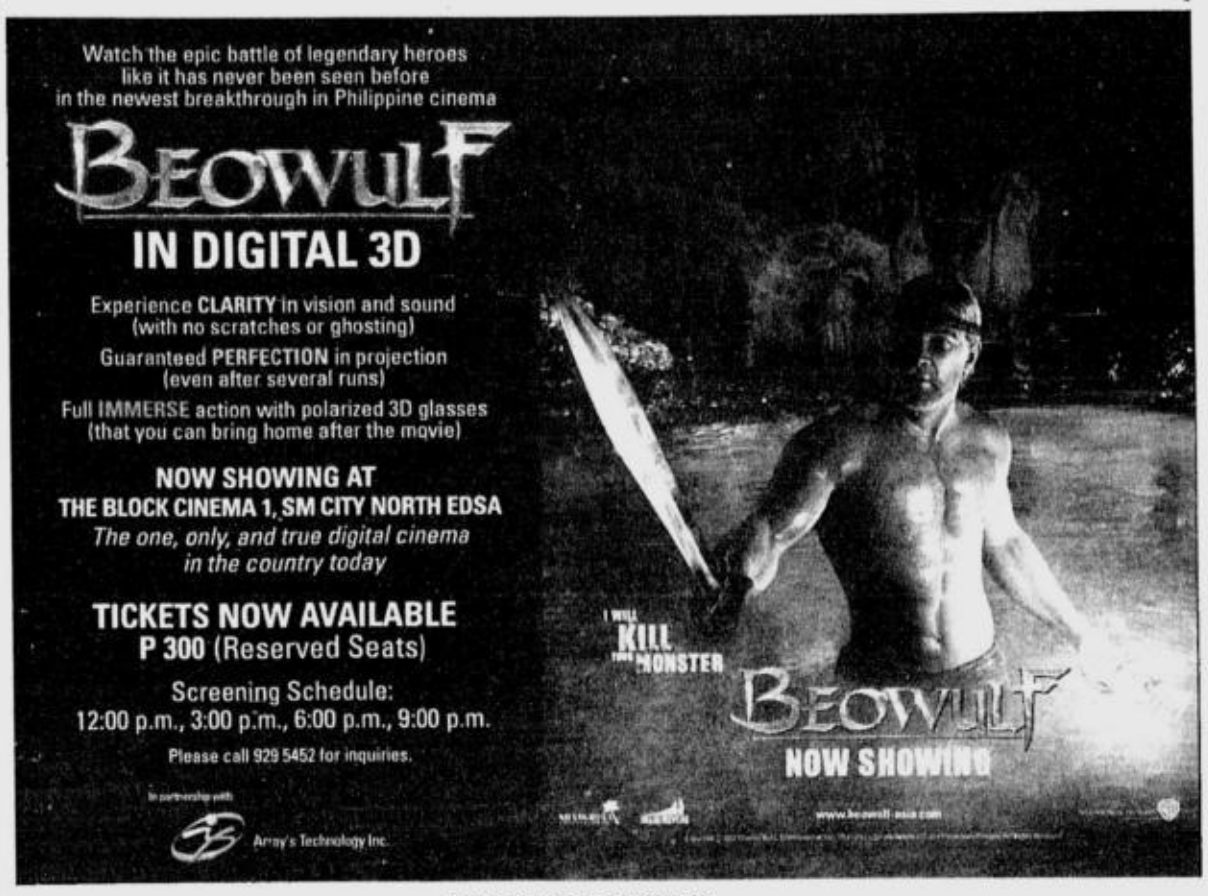

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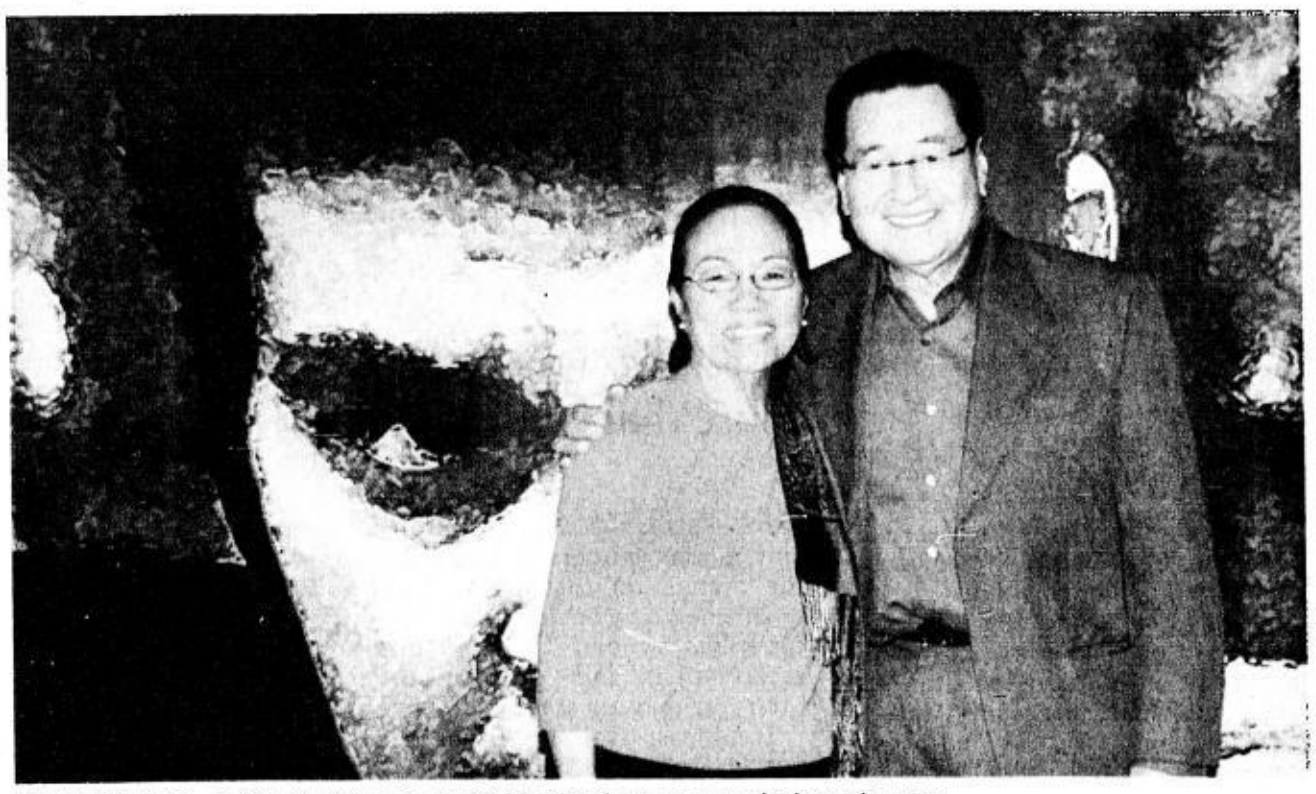
LAST-MINUTE touchup for the Star for All Seasons on the set of the TV special. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



FPJ'S CLOSE friends Caridad Sanchez and Eddie Garcia are among the interviewees.

FPJ forever

From page 11

music video that FPJ had edited before his passing on December 14, 2004.

The music video consists of choice scenes from over 200 movies—including song numbers with favorite leading ladies and child costars.

Alikpala recalls that FPJ planned to show the video to his friends on the night he had an attack at a party in the FPJ studio on Dec. 11.

The video will be aired without commercial breaks. "That was exactly how FPJ envisioned it," says Chit Guerrero, ABS-CBN business unit head.

A music video that FPJ edited premieres in the docu

For Mowelfund

Guerrero recounts that FPJ told his nephew Jeff Sonora, who helped in the editing, that he wanted to premiere the video in February 2005. Which would be two months after his death.

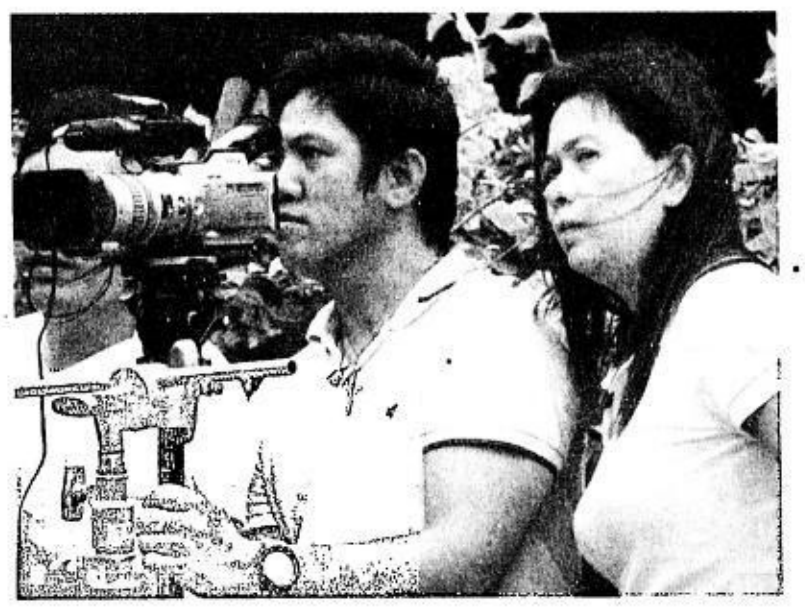
The Poe family has decided to turn over the proceeds from the network's purchase of the TV rights of the music video to Mowelfund, which FPJ set up with Dolphy and former President Joseph Estrada, says Guerrero.

"The docu affirmed many of the nuances of FPJ's character which my late husband Pete and I had been privy to as a family friend," says Roa. "Mowelfund is grateful to the Poes. The assistance comes like manna from heaven."

Of course, no docu on FPJ would be complete without quotes from his best friend Estrada, who described "FPJ as a learned, well-read man," says Alikpala.

But the most revealing insights were provided by the other Susan in FPJ's life—trusted aide Susan Tagle.

It was a four-hour chat, relates Alikpala. "She's the spine of the material. She knows the man very well. She told us that FPJ taught voters to become more vigilant [after his failed presidential bid," Alikpala explains. "The Poe family also shared with us campaign footage, crowd shots that had never been aired."



ACE CINEMATOGRAPHER Lee Meily, right, worked as director of photography.

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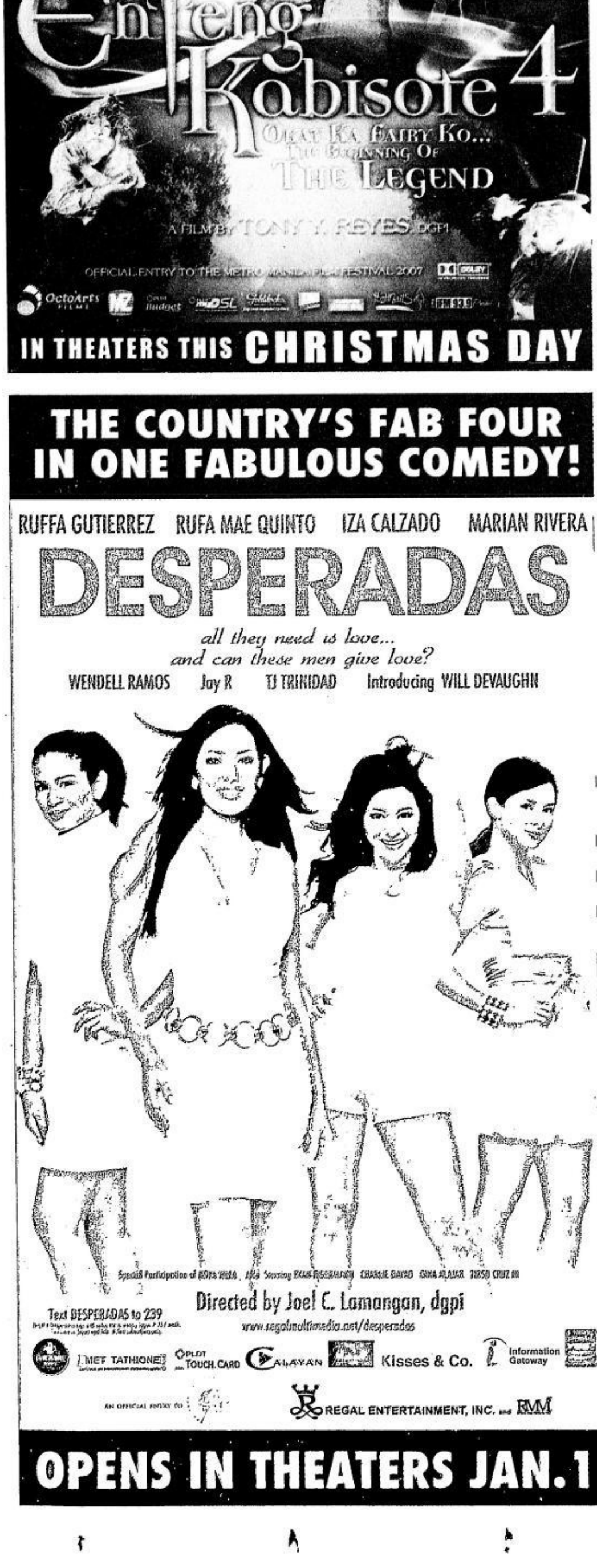

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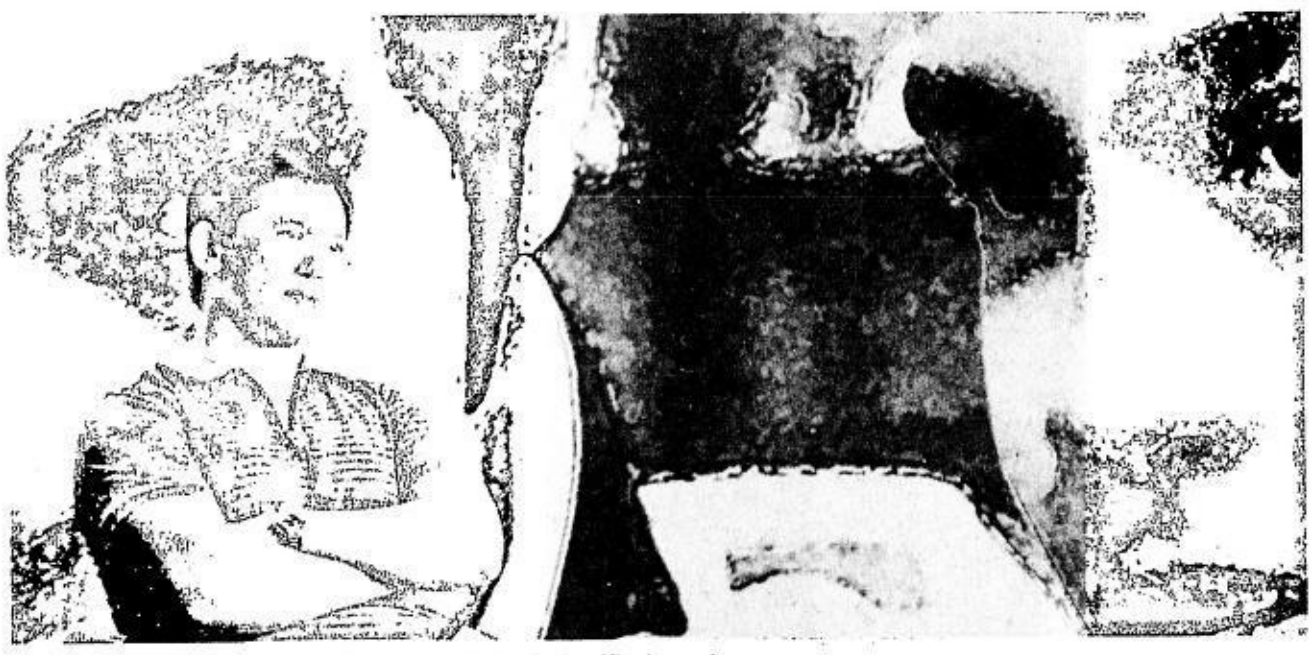

ACTOR Phillip Salvador worked as an extra in the Action King's movies.

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CHRISTOPHER de Leon hosts the segment on FPJ as friend.

EDGAR Mortiz recalls: FPJ was fun-loving.

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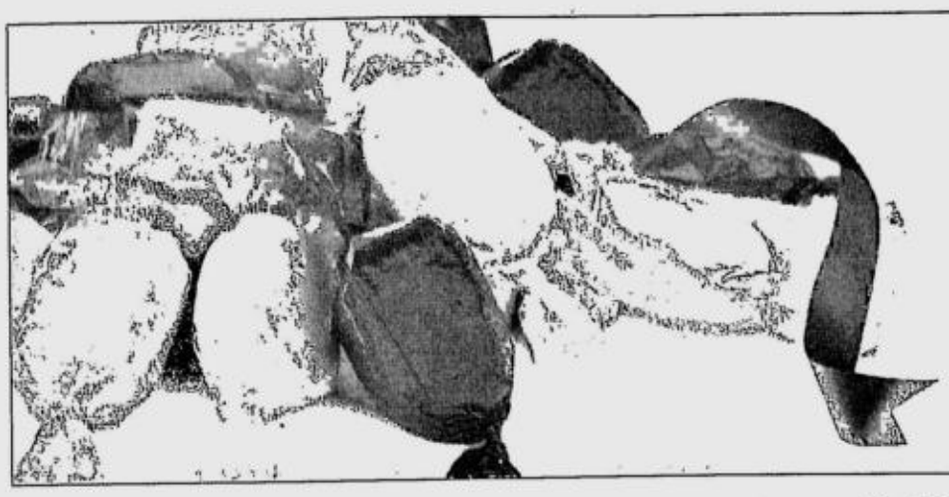
Voice of summer: PDA vs. 'Idol'

A STUDIO insider says ABS-CBN is moving the second season of its reality singing contest, "Pinoy Dream Academy," from January to "sometime in the summer."

The insider says Kapamilya channel is gearing for a head-on collision with GMA 7's "Philippine Idol," premiering in April.



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Delightful work: '80s hits, big-band style

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE MOST DELIGHTFUL, SURPRISING record release this year has got to be Raymond Lauchengco's new CD, "Full Circle: The Big Band Album" (Viva).

REVIEW

Though it's purely an all-covers set, the concept that gave life to it is so beautifully executed, that this may well be the standard by which succeeding "revival" projects will be measured.

Lauchengco credits his wife Mia for the idea that inspired him to throw himself completely into the project—pick a set of hit tunes from his era, the 1980s, and sing them like they've never been heard before, big-band style.

Brilliant

For any such endeavor to succeed, one needs a good musical director and arranger which Lauchengco found in Vic Oria. Remember the name, because his work here has "brilliance" written on it.

Oria, with co-arranger Ronald Tomas and a nine-piece band including himself on piano and assorted keyboards, overhauls all 10 tracks in the album, making them sound like they're the greatest songs of the '80s.

No kidding.

Initially, a look at the titles won't cause a big stir, but the moment they spin on the CD player, every listener who grew up knowing, loving, maybe even loathing these songs will turn up the vol

DELIGHTFUL/ J2

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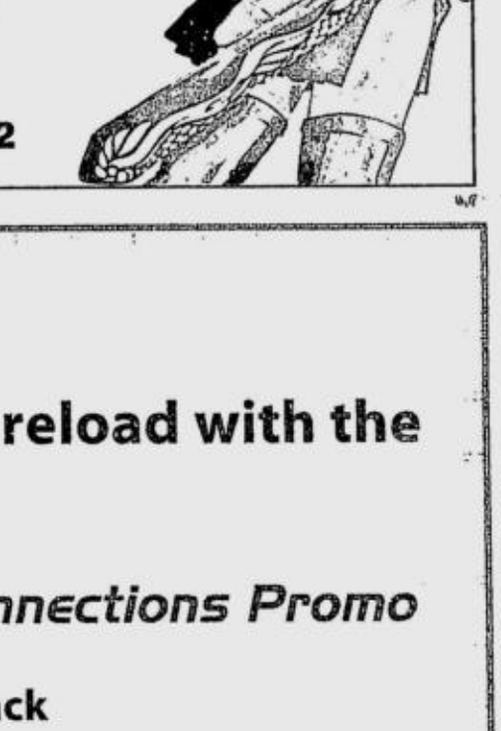

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Delightful work . . .

From page J1

ume.

"Head Over Heels," recorded by The Go-Go's at the height of the '80s new wave craze, is given a swinging jazz makeover. The original version made fans dance; this one will make them smile while dancing.

Dazzling

"Walking on Sunshine" (Katrina and the Waves), a favorite cover tune of many local bands and still an FM radio staple, starts with Lauchengco singing with a lone stride piano on mono effects and then bursts with a rich, orchestral backup. The effect is dazzling—we are prodded to sing along *and* smile.

By the third track, "Just Got Lucky" (Jo Boxers), one realizes why this album has a special appeal: it seems Lauchengco's voice has a more energetic lilt now, and his phrasing is so clear, it's easy to appreciate the beauty of the lyrics.

But of course the band completes the picture—collectively a talented group of musicians, individually delivering the foundations and accents that make each song stand out. They deserve mention here: Kim Lesaca (bass), Jun Austria (drums), Adam Cesante (electric guitar), Ronnie Marqueses (trombone), Ruel Cabrera (first trumpet), Richie Gonzaga (second trumpet), Rancis De Leon (alto saxophone), Torres (tenor saxophone) and lastly, Oria whom Lauchengco refers to as "*Manong* Genius."

Hearing the opening bars to Philip Oakey and Giorgio Moroder's "Together in Electric Dreams," it's easy to understand why Lauchengco had so much fun doing this album.

Totally reworked

Originally written for a film soundtrack, this synth-pop/dance tune is totally reworked as a ballad, a bit more apt to the bittersweet lyrics.

It's also surprising to see a '60s pop classic, "Always Something There To Remind Me" (Burt Bacharach/Hal David) included here, but then we remember the synth-based group Naked Eyes doing a dance cover of the song in '83—whose memory might fade into oblivion after Lauchengco's version.

We'll let you discover for yourselves the other delights in this fine musical collection. Okay, just one more teaser: in "Full Circle," suddenly, Rick Astley and Wham are not so *baduy*, after all—in case you hated them 20 years ago.

Every listener who grew up hearing these songs will turn up the volume.

Featuring essays by:
Jules Alcantara / Rain Reyes / Jose Leo Lemuel G. Caparas Jr. / Cinnamon Marcelo / Rodney L. Barayuga / Rio Cabcaba / Prairie Dawn / Ron Cuvin / Agnes Fidelis C. Gloria-Pinzon / Elaine P. Lim / Purple / Ann Aberin / Squke / Alex Avila / Fitz Gerard Villaflor / Wendi Ilemmi Mandiguing Tapawan / Pearlsha Abubakar / Bingko / Lou Albano / Angelo Hernandez / Claudette M. Llarena / Connie Gundayao / Marla del Rosario / Karen Mae V Gican / B / Jerick T. Aguilar / Melou L. Redome / Jen Esguerra / Erin Batac / Ella Reyes / Eder S. Mutuc, M.D. / Donalyne Rasalan Lampa / Carlos Alfonso Q. Santos / Chefstefa Cabreros / Adello Cyenis Alaris / Alaja F. Martinez / Zvach / Matthias / Raiza Katrina Abubakar / Jessica Bilfantes / Gabriella S. Martelino / Sherie S. Sta. Cruz / Janie S. Cembri / Jonas Soltes / Joel Wenceslao / Paula L. Azurin / Diana Emiano / Kay Stephanie Veloso / TJ / Dawn Isabel Yu Aquino / Roel A. Andag / Paolo David / Florianne Jimenez

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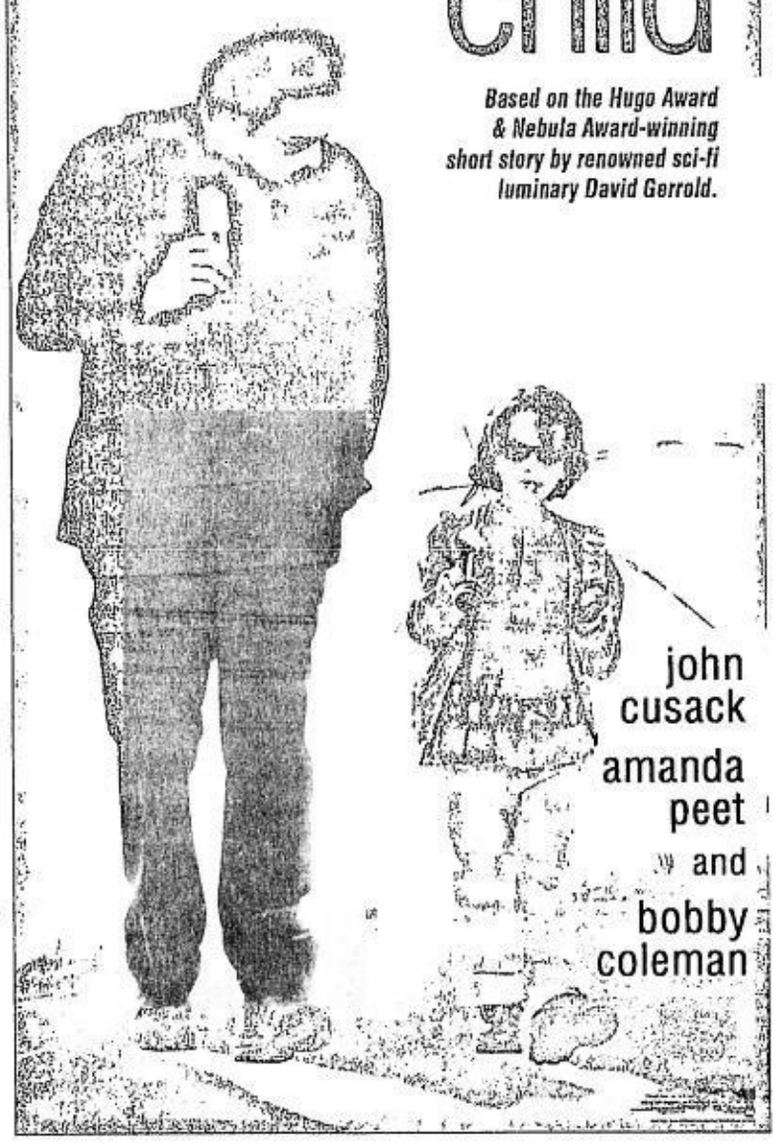

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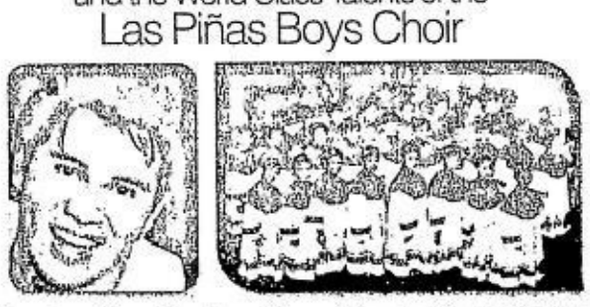

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DID YOU KNOW...

Look, no Billy Joel

NEW YORK—BILLY Joel has released a new pop single, the anti-war "Christmas in Fallujah." Just do not expect to hear his voice on it.

At 58, Joel felt he was too old to sing the song, which was inspired by letters the Piano Man received from soldiers in Iraq. So he gave it to Cass Dillon, a 21-year-old singer-songwriter from Long Island.

Thrilled

"I thought it should be somebody young, about a soldier's age," Joel said in a statement on his Web site. "I wanted to help somebody else's career. I've had plenty of hits. I've had plenty of airplay. I've had my time in the sun. I think it's time for somebody else, maybe, to benefit from my own experience."

Dillon said he was thrilled to be asked.

Beneficiary

"When someone of that stature ... asks you to sing something he's written, there's nothing you can do but be completely honored to perform," Dillon said in a statement.

"Christmas in Fallujah" went on sale Tuesday on Apple Inc.'s iTunes. Proceeds go to Homes for Our Troops, which builds homes for severely wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

AP

Barbara Walters tired of celebrity interviews

NEW YORK—BARBARA WALters, famed for celebrity television interviews that often draw on-screen tears, says she's tired of Britney, Paris and the tabloid trend she helped create.

A CHEER FACTOR

Now, before her annual show, "The 10 Most Fascinating People," airing on ABC on Thursday, Walters, 78, said she wants to focus on other topics.

"We began to do more and more celebrities and we were criticized," she said. "And now ... every program does it. It's the ratings, stupid." *Reuters*

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5 THE HITMAN
6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
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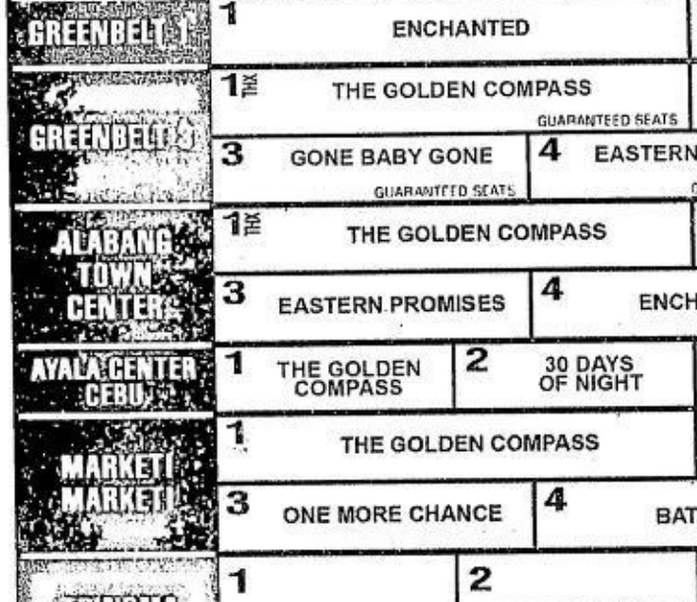

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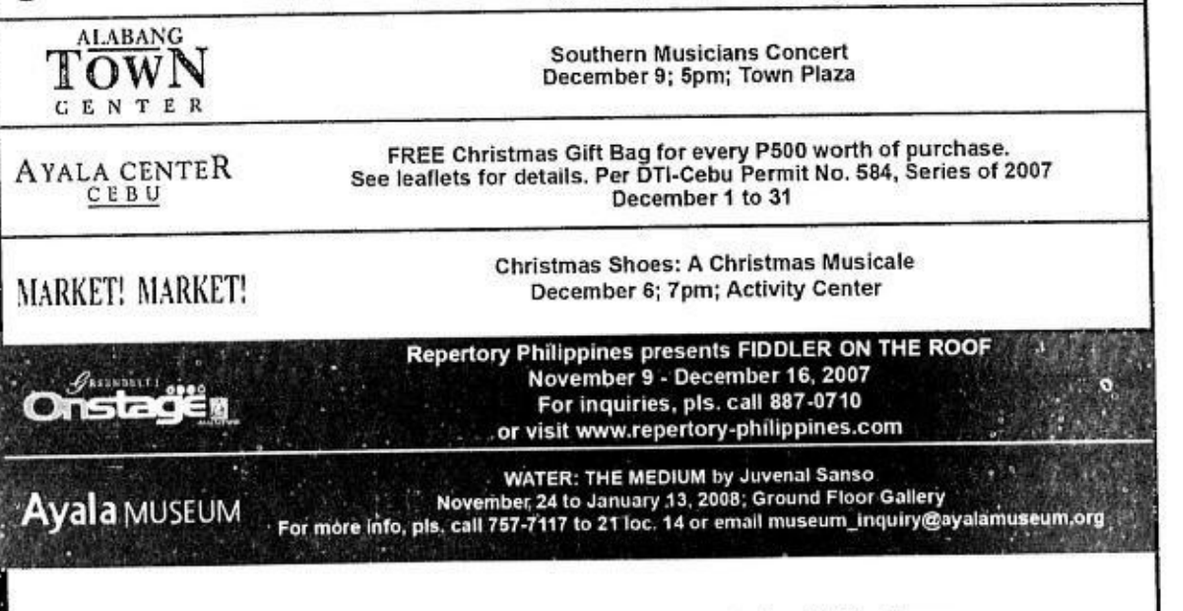

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THE FOO Fighters AP

SPIN

West, Winehouse lead Grammy bets

LOS ANGELES—WHETHER HE WINS OR loses on Grammy night, the chances of more Kanye West drama at an awards show were high after he received a leading eight nominations.

The British singer Amy Winehouse received six nominations after months of personal problems that took the focus off her gritty, soulful music.

Other top nominees included the Foo Fighters, Jay-Z, Rihanna, Paul McCartney, T-Pain and Timbaland.

AMY Winehouse AP

Both West and Winehouse were nominated Thursday for Album of the Year for their CDs "Graduation" and "Back to Black," respectively. Winehouse was also cited for Best New Artist, plus Record and Song of the Year for the defiant hit, "Rehab."

Other Record of the Year candidates included Beyonce's "Irreplaceable," the Foo Fighter's "The Pretender," Rihanna's "Umbrella" and "What Goes Around Comes Around" by Justin Timberlake.

KANYE West AP

Distressed

Winehouse, an admitted marijuana smoker, has been dogged by reports of further drug use amid a flurry of canceled concert dates. Just this week she was spotted walking outside of her London home wearing a bra and jeans, with no shoes, looking distressed.

"She makes Lindsay Lohan look cool," comedian George Lopez said on stage as he helped announce the nominations.

Tantrums

West, known for throwing tantrums at awards shows when he doesn't win, has had a triumphant yet tragic year. He knocked 50 Cent off his throne when "Graduation" had the best-selling debut of the year with nearly one million copies sold, but his mother died suddenly in November at age 58 after plastic surgery.

In addition to West and Winehouse, the Album of the Year category also featured the Foo Fighters, for "Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace," Vince Gill's four-disc set "These Days,"—and, surprisingly, Herbie Hancock's tribute to Joni Mitchell, "River: The Joni Letters."

Shocked

Hancock, on hand to announce the nominees, said he was shocked.

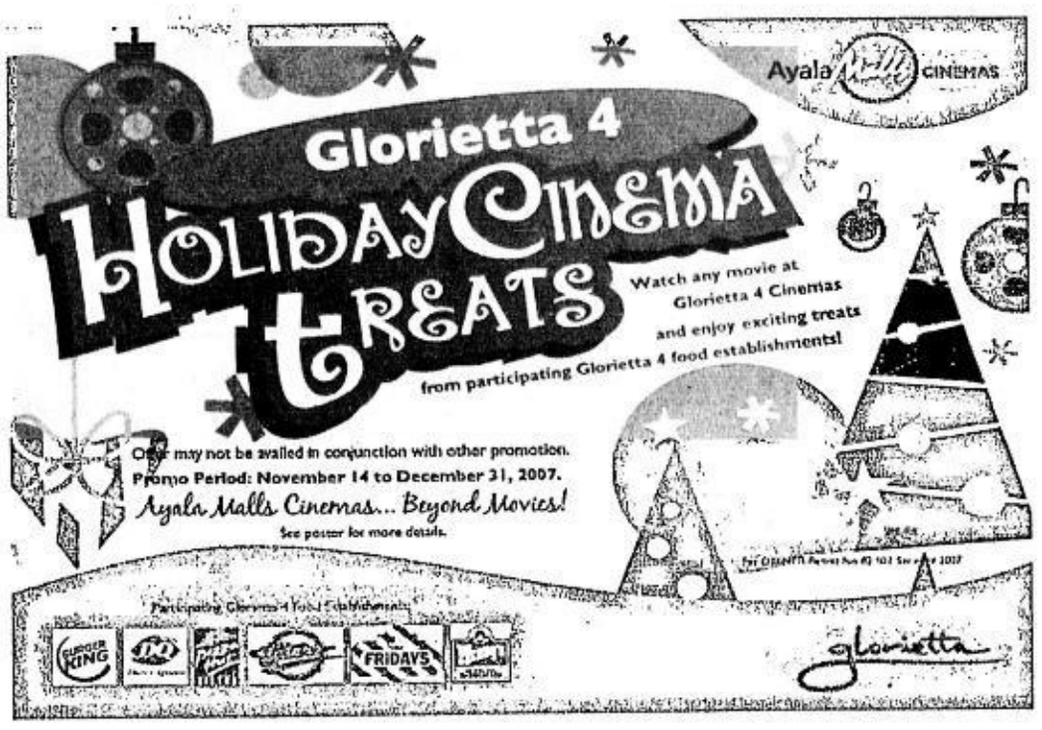
"It's not a category you normally find a jazz artist," said Hancock, who said he had awakened that morning at 5:30 a.m. to chant Buddhist prayers for a half-hour. "I don't chant to win awards ... And I've never been nominated for Album of the Year."

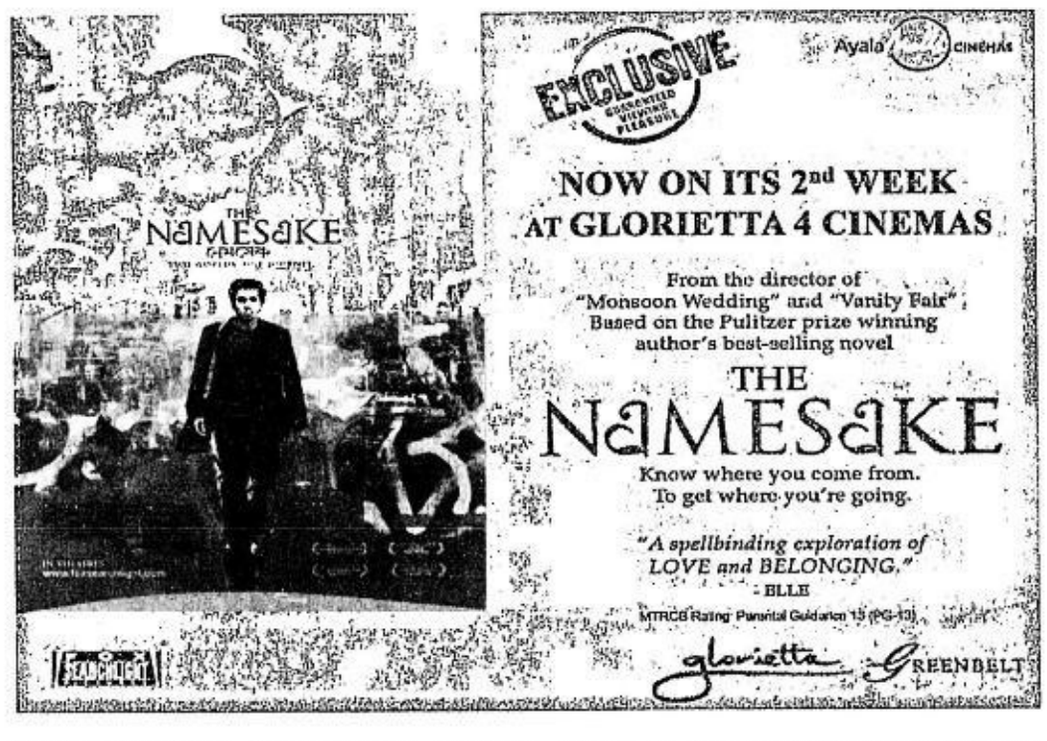
More nods

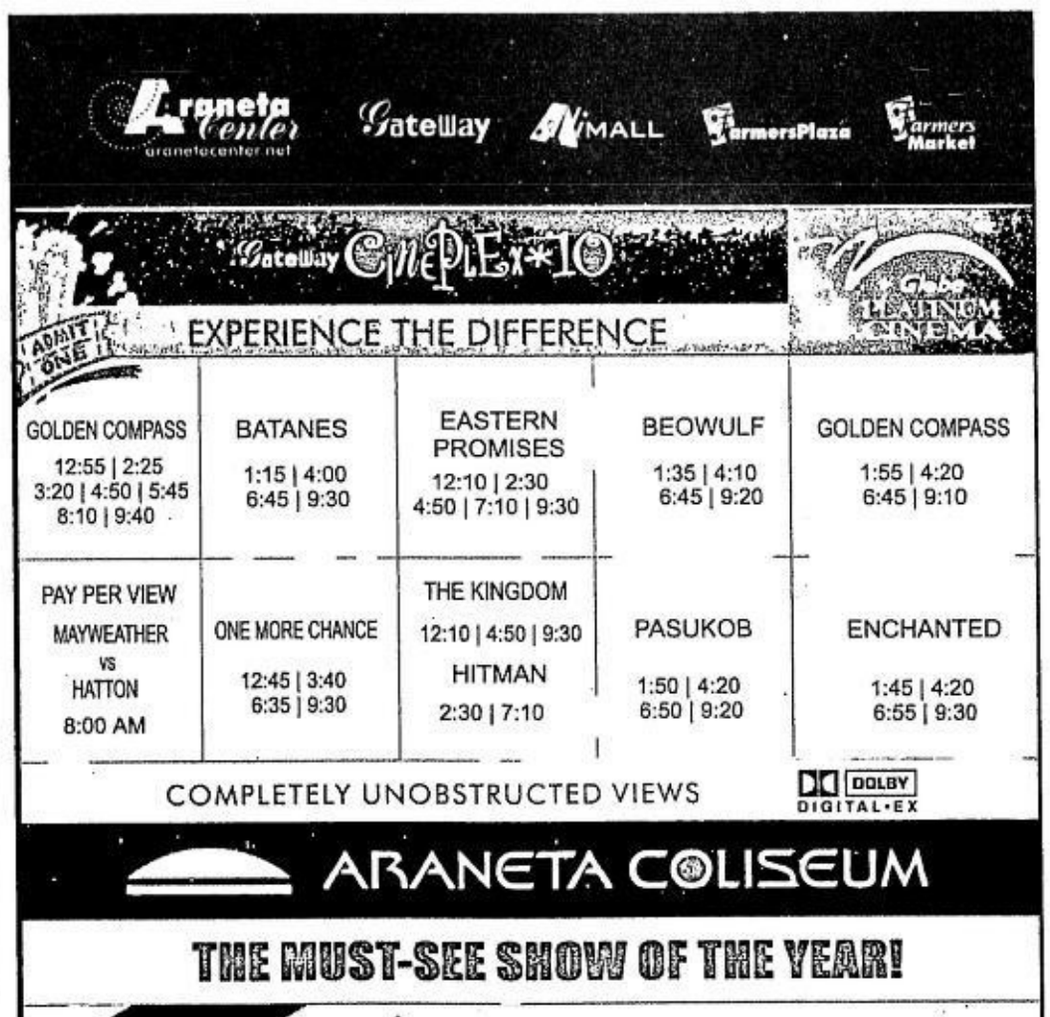
Other Song of the Year candidates included Corrine Bailey Rae's sweet-sounding "Like a Star," Carrie Underwood's revenge anthem "Before He Cheats," The Plain White T's "Hey There Delilah" and "Umbrella."

Winehouse was competing against Feist, Paramore, Taylor Swift and Ledesi in the Best New Artist race.

"I'm freaking out," said Swift, who turns 18 in less than a week. *AP*







Daring stunts mark Tarantino's new film

LOS ANGELES—BEFORE **QUENTIN Tarantino** visited the Philippines late this year, he gave a press conference in LA for his movie "Death Proof."

It was during this time that the actor-writer-director told us that he was coming to the Philippines, the base of his idols like **Cirio H. Santiago** and **Eddie Romero**. In between sips of iced Starbucks coffee, Quentin, invariably described as "the film geek who made good and the reigning avatar of postmodern cool," talked about "Death Proof." The film was shown in the US with **Robert Rodriguez**'s "Planet Terror" as "Grindhouse," the two directors' ode to grindhouses of their youth, usually downtown movie theaters in disrepair that grind out nonstop double bill of B-movies.

"Grindhouse" even came with fake trailers that paid tribute to those gory slasher pics of the '60s and '70s. But in other countries, including the Philippines, "Death Proof" and "Planet Terror" were shown separately.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Quentin's film, which features a scene where **Rosario Dawson**'s make-up artist and stand-in character talks about an incident while filming in the Philippines, boasts of an exciting car chase that, in itself, is worth the price of the movie house ticket. The sequence is a fitting climax to a story about two groups of foxy women which include Rosario, **Rose McGowan, Tracie Thoms, Sydney Tamiia Poitier** (great screen presence—this daughter of **Sydney Poitier** deserves her own movie) and **Zoe Bell** (as herself, a stuntwoman who does a daring stunt in the car chase) who meet a scarred, weathered rebel (**Kurt Russell**) who drives a menacing muscle car.

I laughed out loudest when Rosario Dawson's character narrated in one scene how she was at an outdoor rave while she was in the Philippines doing a movie called "Three Kicks to the Head, Part 3."

What inspired you to write that scene?

In my mind, they were doing a **Cirio H. Santiago** film in the Philippines, one of those straight-to-video action movies. Probably **Don** "The Dragon" **Wilson** was the star of it. The story that Rosario's character was telling actually happened with Zoe and me in China when we were shooting "Kill Bill." We were at a rave at the Great Wall and the exact story happened. Zoe was

DARING/ K2

DON'T ride his car! Jordan Ladd and Kurt Russell before he takes her on the ride of her life in "Death Proof."

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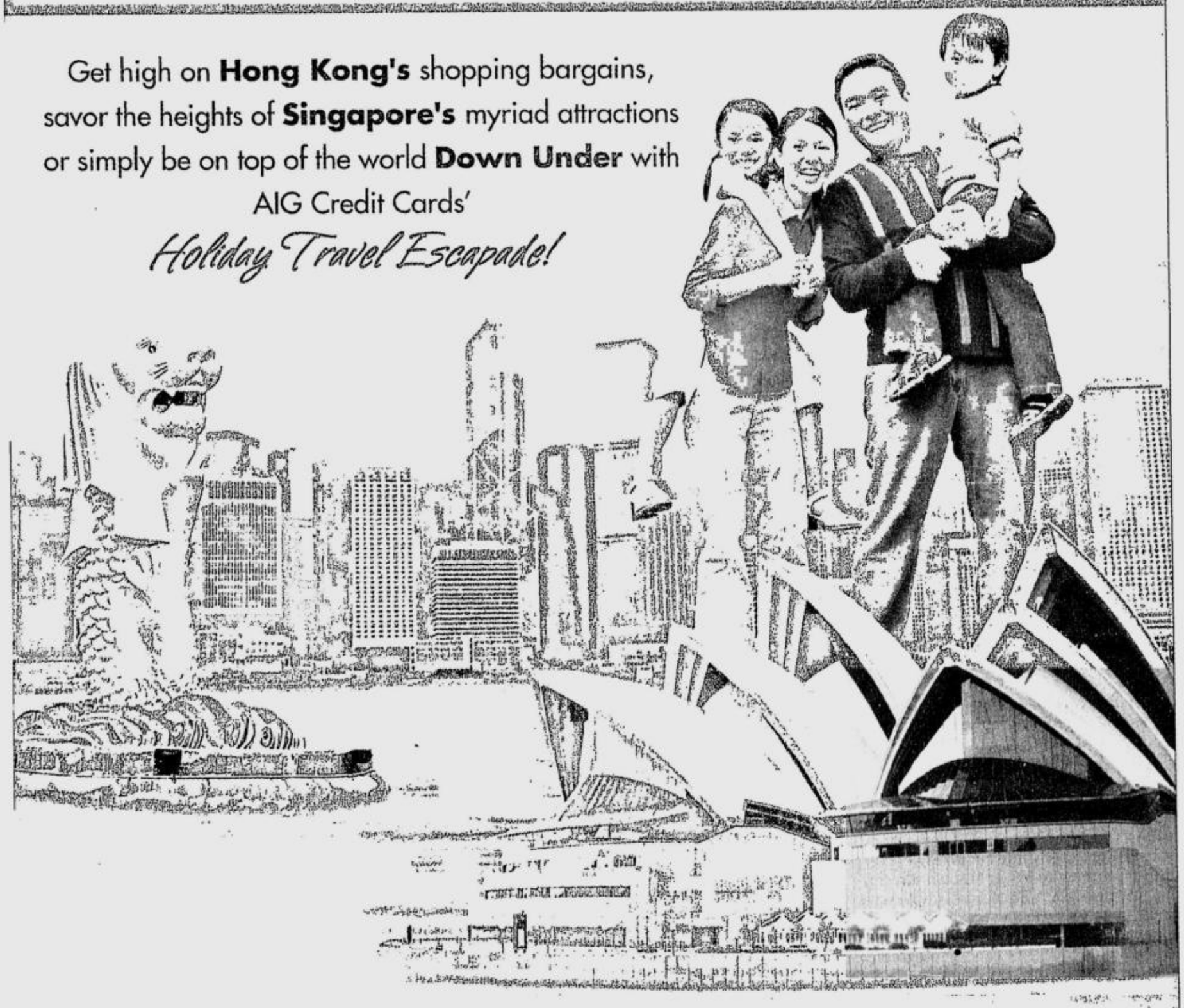

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QUENTIN'S foxy women (from left): Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Rosario Dawson (as a movie make-up artist who talks about an incident while filming in the Philippines), Zoe Bell (as herself, a daring stuntwoman) and Tracie Thoms.

Daring stunts mark...

From page K1

trying to take a picture of me and she kept saying, "Go back, go back, go back." All of a sudden, I realized that I was on the edge of a precipice. I would have fallen into a gaping abyss had I taken one step back. If I listened to what Zoe said, I might not be here right now (laughter). She herself turned around and fell in the ditch. She fell on her feet and she was like, "No worries."

Part of my thing, especially in the story of the crew making a movie, is that I wanted to completely think the references all the way through. So they were making references that they knew and it wasn't like we were just popping off stuff. So literally, in my mind, they were making a Cirio H. Santiago movie (laughter).

The big car chase scene is one of the most exciting we've seen in years. How did you choreograph that scene?

When it came to the chase, I said to everyone who would listen, I'm a little nervous about this because I want this to be one of the greatest chases in the history of cinema. If it's not, then I'm not as talented as I thought I was. I will find out right now if I have a ceiling. I like putting myself in that kind of situation because when you punch through it, usually, you're there.

The one thing I will say about the chase is that I didn't just write in the script, "They chase." I broke it down into 20 pages of prose of everything that's supposed to go on. Of course, you almost can't really write a chase until you actually get to the location because once you're there, you go, they can go up there, they can do this, here's that turn over here and so on.

But part of the reason I wrote the chase so extensively is that when I get together with the stunt guys and coordinators who were great, they're not lording it over me. They have 20 pages of material. I have a clear image of what I want as opposed to asking them, what do you think, guys? And they take off and I'm standing on the sidelines watching them.

Since this was your first time to also work as a cinematographer, how much fun did you have?

I had a really good time. But I don't really consider myself as a cinematographer. I was the director of photography on the movie but I don't consider myself a cinematographer. I will not speak for everybody who has done this before but for myself, if a director is going to act as his own director of photography, he's not necessarily being a cinematographer. He's just taking responsibility for the photography. What a cinematographer considers good photography is not necessarily the same thing that a director considers as good photography.

Can you talk about your creative relationship with Uma Thurman?

Uma has a place as a muse in my life. Where she really inspires me is when I'm facing a blank page. In the case of "Kill Bill," I was writing it for her. I was imagining her and even in my prose, in describing the bride or the blonde, she was affecting my writing. The whole reason was to showcase her like the way **Joseph von Sternberg** showcased **Marlene Dietrich.**

When Uma got pregnant, we couldn't do the movie for a while. Everybody in my camp was like, "Do it with **Nicole Kidman** or **Lucy Liu** or anybody, whoever. I said, no way. You couldn't help but think about your other options for a second but then I was like, no way. I don't want to make the movie (without Uma). Or I'll turn it into a novel and release it that way. My thing is, if Sternberg is making "Morocco" with Dietrich and she gets pregnant, then he'll wait for her.

When you worked as a sales clerk at a video store, whose films did you actively recommend to customers?

I was responsible for making **Eric Rohmer** one of the most popular French directors in Manhattan Beach (California) when I was working there (laughter). I would recommend his movies. Actually what happens is that his films had really sexy boxes. I remember somebody would come up with "Pauline at the Beach" with Pauline's ass hanging out of her bathing suit in the cover. Customers would go, "Hey, is this one good?" I had my whole **Eric Rohmer** speech mapped out.

Can you talk about your impressive film collection? How many prints do you own and where do you keep them?

I have a few of them but I can't give you a number because I'm afraid to count (laughter). I'm afraid that's putting my obsessiveness under too sharp a microscope. All right, I have a lot. I have a whole lot of 16s and 35s (prints). I keep my 35s in an outdoor vault that I pay for. The 16s are in a vault that I had built in my house. When I bought the house, it had this huge backroom closet that could have been like a wine cellar or something. I had that converted to hold 16 prints in there.

Which prints do you value most?

I have to say that I have a couple of prints that I can't even believe I am lucky enough to own. Some of them are great classics and some are groovy grindhouse movies that I lucked out to get a print of. I have a British Scope IB Technicolor print of "The Great Escape" which is just fantastic. I have been collecting for years but only a couple of years ago did I get a 35 print of "Rio Bravo" which I can't believe I own. I have all three of the **Sergio Leon** "Dollar" movies, "A Fistful of Dollars," "For a Few Dollars More" and "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."

One of my favorite prints of all time is one of my favorite sexploitation movies, "The Girl from Starship Venus" by British sexploitation director **Derek Ford.**

Speaking of Sergio Leone, when are you making your own spaghetti western?

Look, I'm kind of cheating. I'm kind of doing a spaghetti western almost every time out. I need to commit to actually doing a spaghetti western. But I want to explore more westerns because I want to do something that hasn't really been in a certain way. I want to deal with America's horrible past with slavery but not do them in big issue movies but do them like spaghetti westerns.

Why aren't you making more movies?

Two reasons—one, I do want to live life in between movies. I give it all to the movies. I feel like climbing Mount Everest every time. When I get off the mountain, then I want to spend some time at the chalet at the bottom (laughter). I have to be able to live life so I can give something back to it. But I also like putting life on hold for a long time, too.

But the real reason is because I'm a writer and I always have to start with a blank page and that's hard. A lot of directors started off as writer-directors and as they started having a little bit more success, they stopped writing their scripts. You know why they do that? Because it's f-----g hard to look at that blank page.

I just lost a bet with my colleague. I bet that you were going to say f-k in the first 10 minutes.

I saved it for the 23rd minute (laughter).

So what do you do in the chalet when you come down from the mountain, so to speak?

Because I don't have a family and kids, it's very easy for me to put life completely on hold. My whole life is one big red blinking button (laughter). By the time I get through with my adventure—and if it's not an adventure, if it's just a job, then I should start thinking about doing something else—just sitting on your couch and watching television becomes appealing. But one of the great things that cinema has given me is a passport to the world. I have gone to different countries. I've got friends in this and that place. I go and visit them, pick up where we left off.

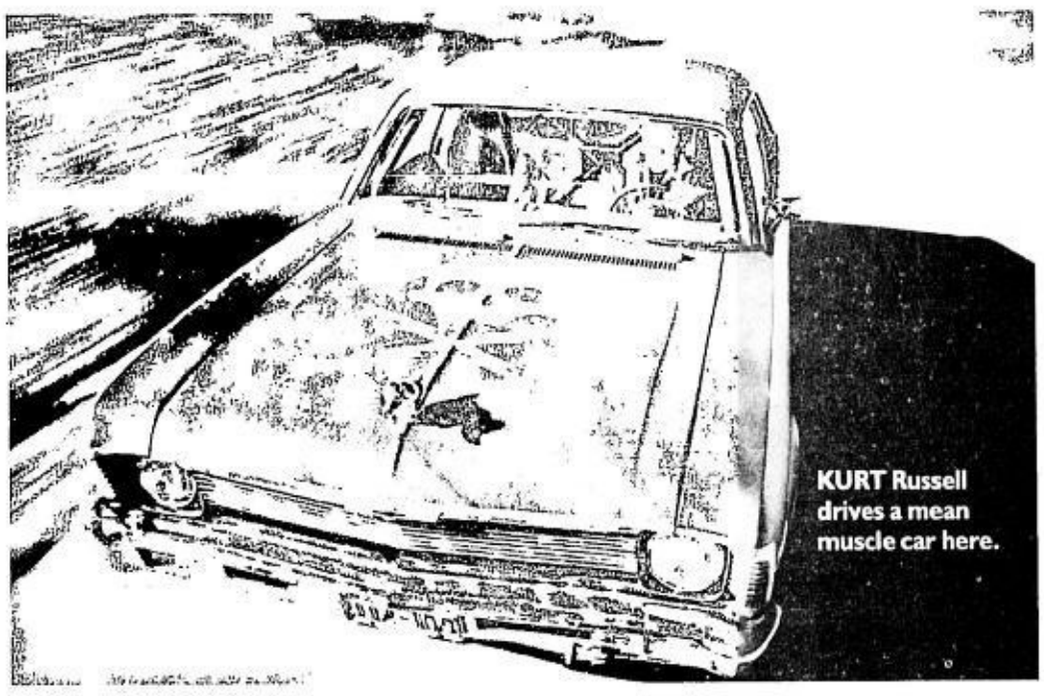
But I guess when I think about living life, when you say what the chalet is about, it's about sleeping late, watching mindless **Tyra Banks** (laughter). She's not mindless but her TV show is, reading a novel again, trying to go to sleep at night and visiting friends.

Were you really paid just a dollar for directing this movie?

No. I got paid a dollar for directing my scene in "Sin City." **Robert Rodriguez** did the score for "Kill Bill Volume 2" and he got paid a dollar.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

QUENTIN Tarantino, Cinemanila Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement Awardee, directs Vanessa Ferlito in "Death Proof."



KURT Russell drives a mean muscle car here.

The film has an exciting car chase that, in itself, is worth the price of admission

SHE'S Sydney Poitier's daughter, Tamiia.

DAKOTA Fanning

DANIEL Radcliffe

MILEY Cyrus

Teen stars earn millions: US survey

LOS ANGELES—TEENAGE ACTORS AND singers such as 15-year-old "Hannah Montana" starlet Miley Cyrus are among the most highly paid young stars on the planet with annual income worth millions of dollars, Forbes.com revealed Tuesday.

Black market

Cyrus, daughter of the country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, recently shot to stardom in Disney's teen pop soap opera "Hannah Montana," and is one of the youngest rankings of the "20 Top-Earning Young Superstars" list published on Forbes' website. Tickets to her concerts fetch thousands of dollars on the black market.

She was out-ranked, however, by Dakota Fanning, aged just 13, the child star of the 2006 movie "Charlotte's Web." Fanning earned $4 million in the year from June 2006.

Largely thanks to their lucrative advertising deals, sportsmen and women occupied the top spots in the upmarket magazine's latest rich list, which surveyed superstars aged under 25.

Topping it was the Cleveland, Ohio basketball player LeBron James, who will turn 23 this month. He raked in $27 million in a single year.

Other sporting celebrities also approached the quarter-billion mark: New Orleans American football player Reggie Bush, 22, bagged $23 million, as did Russian tennis ace Maria Sharapova, aged 20.

Radcliffe, too

British actor Daniel Radcliffe, 18, who played the boy wizard Harry Potter in the blockbuster film series, earned $15 million in the year. *AFP*

'Kite Runner' stars flown out of Afghanistan

LOS ANGELES—THE FOUR child stars of the film adaptation of "The Kite Runner" have been flown out of Afghanistan amid concerns for their safety, the Hollywood studio behind the movie said Thursday.

A statement from Paramount Vantage said the actors in the movie—which is due for release in the United States on Dec. 14—left the war-torn country last week.

The decision to spirit the children out of Afghanistan was taken on the advice of several non-governmental organizations and local experts, the statement said.

It followed concern that the actors might be the subject of reprisals for a pivotal scene in the film in which actor Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada's character, Hassan, is raped.

Glowing review

Mahdmidzada's performance in the movie—based on the best-selling 2003 book by Khaled Hosseini—has earned glowing reviews, with the New York Times describing it as being "among the great child performances on film."

"Last Friday, the four child actors from 'The Kite Runner' left Afghanistan following the recommendations of several NGO organizations and Afghan experts concerning their security," Paramount said in a statement.

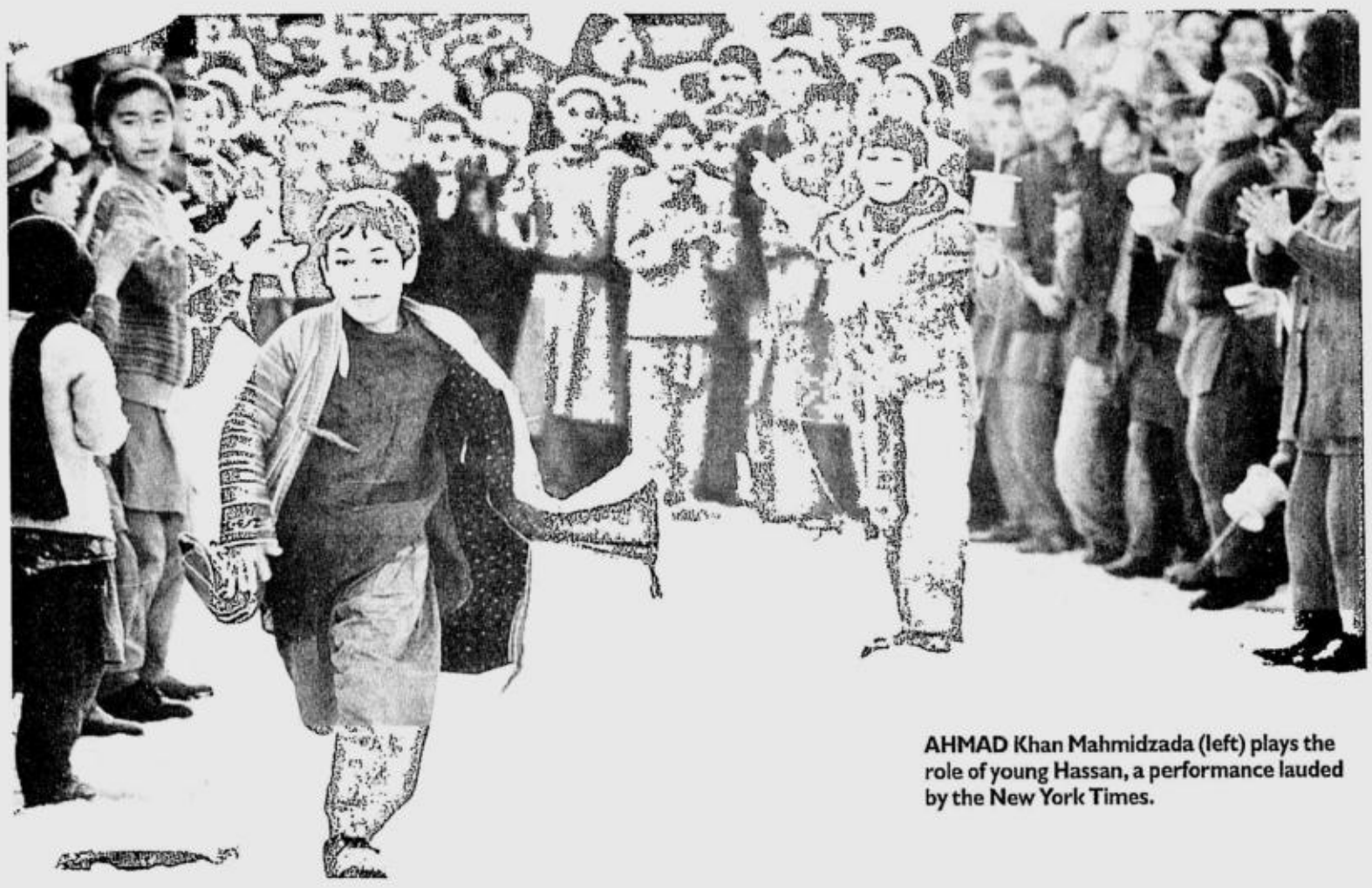
"We are thrilled we were able to get them to a safe and stable location in advance of the Dec. 14 opening," it added.

Hard work

"The children are doing well and will be enrolled in an excellent school beginning in January," the statement continued. "We are grateful for their participation and are looking into ways in which they can celebrate the release of the film and their hard work."

Set against the backdrop of Afghanistan's tumultuous recent past, "The Kite Runner" tells the story of the friendship of two boys from different ethnic backgrounds.

The film has been tipped for success at next year's Oscars. *AFP*


AHMAD Khan Mahmidzada (left) plays the role of young Hassan, a performance lauded by the New York Times.

Mutya is RP's last hope for this year

By Armin Adina

AFTER A DISMAL PERFORmance in the most important pageants in the world, the Philippines is pinning its last hope for a beauty title this year on a Mutya.

Even though Anna Theresa Licaros and Jeanne Harn copped the Photogenic awards in Miss Universe and Miss Earth, respectively, the country failed to enter the semifinals in both pageants, as well as in Miss International and Miss World.

But Ana Marie Morelos, crowned Mutya ng Pilipinas-Tourism International last June in Subic, hopes to break this trend as she flies to Malaysia on Dec. 12 to compete in the last international pageant for the year —the Miss Tourism Metropolitan—which culminates on Dec. 31.

Optimistic

"I will do my best. I am aiming for the title," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City last Thursday.

"I don't allow myself to be pressured by the responsibility, and I remain optimistic," added the 18-year-old pageant neophyte.

ANA MARIE Morelos
ROMY HOMILLADA

Similarities

Ana noted some similarities between the Mutya ng Pilipinas and the Miss Tourism Metropolitan pageants. Mutya was her first national contest, and the Miss Tourism Metropolitan is her first international tilt.

There are also two titles at stake in both pageants. Two winners were crowned in Mutya —Mutya-Asia Pacific International and Mutya-Tourism International. In Malaysia, two queens will be proclaimed —Miss Tourism Metropolitan and Miss Tourism Queen of the Year.

Ana confessed she crammed in her preparations for Mutya, as she is doing now for the Malaysia pageant. "I didn't have enough time to train because I'm in school three days a week; and attend training in Bulacan hospitals another three days," she lamented. Ana is a nursing junior at Our Lady of Fatima University.

First time away

Nevertheless, Ana wishes the similarities do not stop there and that she get the same fate in Malaysia as she did in Subic. "I'm really excited," she added.

Ana will be away from her family for the first time. She said she would especially miss Christmas and New Year's Eve with her loved ones.

But she is up for the challenge, saying, "Every sacrifice brings sweet success."

Meanwhile, 2005 Mutya semifinalist Hemilyn Escudero will represent San Juan City in the Miss Global City pageant in Taiwan on Dec. 17.

ROUNDUP

Mindanao film fest

ALCHEMY OF VISION AND Light Productions and the City Government of Davao present The Mindanao Film Festival 2007, which is ongoing at the Gaisano Mall Cinema.

Among the festival highlights is the maiden screening of two Lav Diaz movies—"Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" today and "Heremias" tomorrow.

Also in the roster are eight new short film productions competing in the five-year-old film festival: "Ang Lalis ni David ug Goliath," JP Seniel; "Taryado," Daba Daba Productions; "Ang Alimyon Sa Among Mga Kalipay," Kwadrado Productions; "Popoy," Kadlawon Productions; "Rhea," Uma Productions; "Tumbahan," Hamugaway Productions; "Cha-Cha," Durian Cinema; and "Kulatado," Mykill Limbaga.

Global peace event

Concert stars Pops Fernandez and Jar-R top-bill the main program of the Global Peace Festival 2007, one of the largest international events organized for youth groups in the world, on Dec. 12 at the Quirino Grandstand.

Some 250,000 participants mostly from the youth sector are expected to attend the peace rally organized by the international organization Universal Peace Federation (UPF).

Also expected to join are celebrities Iya Villana, Manny Paquiao and Robin Padilla. There will also be performances by the Bayanihan dance troupe and the Banda Kawayan of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP).

Adopted Ivatans

Asian heartthrob Ken Zhu and local actress Iza Calzado are the newest members of the Ivatan community after being adopted in a ceremony held on Dec. 3 at the Podium in Ortigas.

The two actors, along with Asian Spirit executive vice president Jack Po, were adopted by Basco town mayor Demy Narag as children of Batanes.

Ken and Iza starred in Ignite Media Inc.'s "Batanes," a love story co-directed by Dave Hukom and internationally acclaimed young indie director Adolf Alix Jr.

Pussycat Nicole, up close and personal

By Ramon Jacinto II
Contributor

INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT recently had an up-close and personal interview with part-Filipina recording artist Nicole Scherzinger, front woman for the massively successful The Pussycat Dolls, on her debut solo album "Her Name Is Nicole."

The album is slated for release early next year.

At first glance, Nicole Scherzinger may intimidate. Over the past three years with the burlesque-based group, she has become the epitome of a sex symbol, shaking and grinding her way to the top of the charts. But further inspection reveals someone very down to earth.

She also talks about her recent visit to Manila: "Everyone was so loving. I had never been so touched. I couldn't get through the show without crying. I plan to go back soon."

When you were first cast for The Pussycat Dolls, you immediately negotiated for a solo deal. Have you always known you wanted this?

Yeah. I was in three other groups prior to The Pussycat Dolls and I've always been working up to this moment.

Will you ever work with the group again?

Yeah, when the time is right, we'll do another Pussycat Dolls album. I think that would be great. We've invested so much time into the group, building it. And I think it's got a real foundation and a real fan-base.

How does it feel, going solo?

Well people would think it would be after only three years [with the Pussycat Dolls], but it really started when I was a little girl. It's definitely been quite a journey.

It's rewarding to get to this place; I have to be grateful. There's a lot of people who love music, like I do, and don't get to this point.

You collaborated with both Gary Lightbody and Sting for this album. Are there any other rock musicians that you'd like to work with in the future?

You know who I've always wanted to work with? It's interesting that you asked. I've always thought it would be really amazing to work with Jack White because I'm such a fan of his music... he just tries so many different things. I mean, he's worked with Loretta Lynn. He's got his own group, the Raconteurs. I just love his rock vibe. It just seems kinda simple and old school and I like that.

You have a colorful heritage. You're part-Russian, part-Hawaiian, part-Filipino. And you have a German last name. You seem very proud of this. Do you think this album is successful in reflecting who you are as a person?

NICOLE Scherzinger

Yeah, I think I achieved it. You know, I played around, wrote [and] demo-ed 75 to 100 songs. So I think what I wanted to capture was just me in the album. There's a song that's not on this album that I wrote called, "American Girl". I wrote it with a friend of mine, Tim Rice-Oxley, from a band called Keane. It explains why I have a German last name.... like the simplest form of autobiography. Then I have another song, "Puakenikeni," which I was like... I'm so psyched to be Hawaiian that I gotta make sure that I give a shout-out to my family in Hawaii. Plus I wanted to do a song that just had a Hawaiian word, other than "aloha" for everyone around the world to hear. My heart is the most important thing in this album. My family's proud of that.

Will you project the same sensuous, sexy image in this album that you portrayed as a Pussycat Doll?

Well, I think "Whatever You Like" is a good transition from The Pussycat Dolls going into my solo act. I did strip it down a lot and it's not glammed-up like The Pussycat Dolls were.

There's a lot of underlying meaning in that video. In "Baby Love " I really stripped it down and you get to see more of my roots. I'm just pretty much Hula Girl, my nickname, on an island, singing about love.

The very reason I went solo and did an album is that there are many different sides to me as an individual and as an artist. I have a side to me that is very vulnerable, another side that is spiritual, and still another side that is very playful.

Do you have any advice for aspiring young artists who have the same dreams that you did?

There's a song in my album called "March" that I wrote about this. Kids should listen to that song, because it's about how I made it—the discipline, the determination that got me here. But to just be yourself first and foremost, figure out yourself first and love and embrace yourself—that's the most important thing.

WALANG TIGIL SA **RESPONSABLENG PAMAMAHAYAG.**

WALANG KAPANTAY **ANG PAGTANGKILIK** SA LOOB AT LABAS NG BANSA.

CHANNEL RATING - Manila Peninsula Siege
NOVEMBER 29, 2007

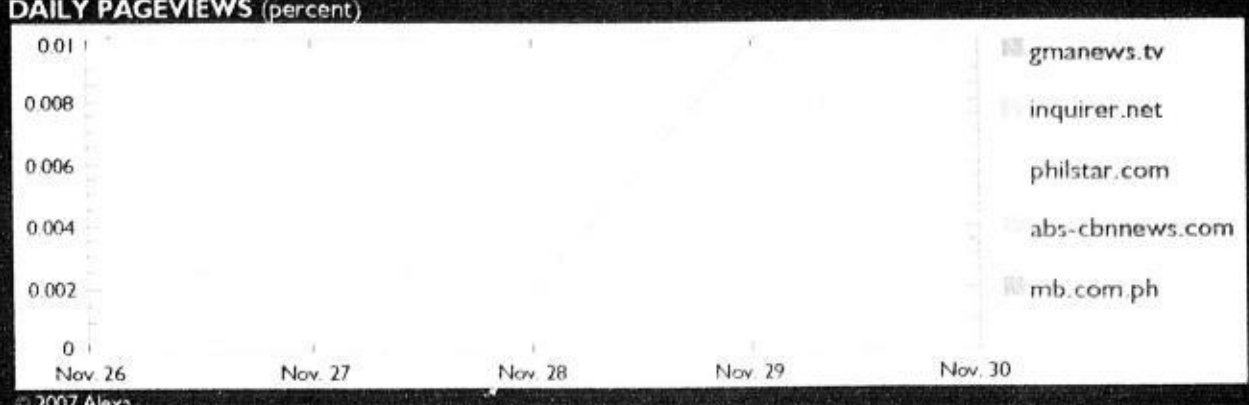
Mega Manila TV Households
Source: AGB Nielsen Media Research Phils., Inc. (Arianna)

GMA		ABS-CBN	
GMA BREAKING NEWS (11:37-11:51 AM, 12:06-12:27 PM, 1:56-6:39 PM)	26.5	**NEWS PATROL** (11:25-11:39 AM, 12:21-12:49 PM, 1:53-6:39 PM)	26.2
24 ORAS (6:39-8:16 PM)	35.6	**NEWS PATROL** (6:39-8:16 PM)	30.1

Notes: 1) Data based on overnight ratings.
2) ABS-CBN aired News Patrol against GMA's 24 Oras, pre-empting TV Patrol.

GMANEWS.TV ALL-TIME HIGH WITH 2 MILLION PAGEVIEWS

DAILY PAGEVIEWS (percent)



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WALANG HUMPAY
ANG PAGBIBIGAY-KARANGALAN SA PILIPINO.

asian TELEVISION AWARDS 2007

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

(Pinoy Exodus sa Lebanon)

BEST CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM

FINALISTS

MAKI PULIDO AND JIGGY MANICAD · BEST CURRENT AFFAIRS HOSTS
24 ORAS · BEST NEWSCAST
KAPUSO MO, JESSICA SOHO · BEST INFOTAINMENT SHOW
PHILIPPINE AGENDA · BEST SOCIAL AWARENESS PROGRAM
EMERGENCY · BEST SOCIAL AWARENESS PROGRAM
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ASIA apollo awards

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ANG INYONG PAGTITIWALA.

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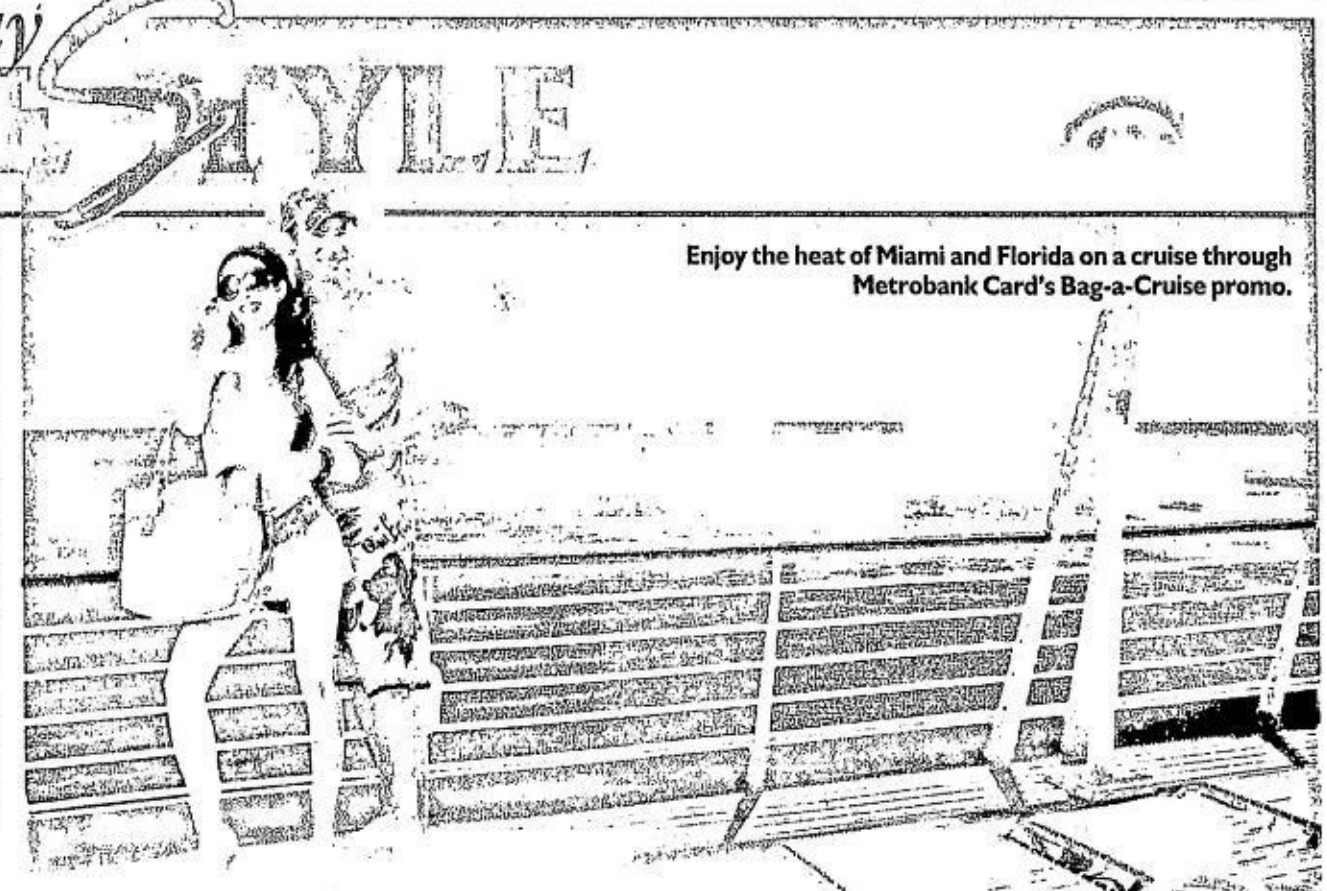
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Love is in the air on a Venetian Cruise that can be yours through Metrobank Card's Bag-a-cruise promo.



Enjoy the heat of Miami and Florida on a cruise through Metrobank Card's Bag-a-Cruise promo.

Shop and (get on a) ship with Bag-A-Cruise!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE HOLIdays? Metrobank Card makes gearing up for the season even more exciting as it launches the Bag-A-Cruise promo—shop for your travel must-buys and you may just find yourself cruising around the world for free. If that's not good enough, get a complimentary limited-edition stylish bag you can use on your next exciting trip!

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Use your Metrobank Credit Card to snag those comfy sandals, shades, swimsuits and lots of sunscreen and—who knows—you might lug them on a free trip to the beach paradise of Bahamas and Florida, or the scenic Honolulu.

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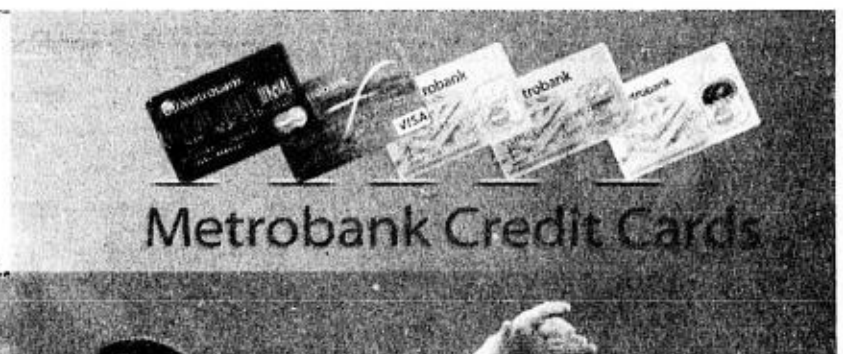

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Get a free stylish bag,

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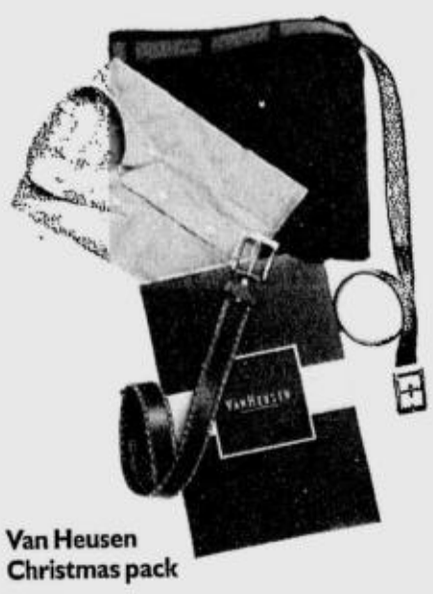
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4538 Series of 2007. Promo runs from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

A lot to love at Robinsons Departi

Shop 'til you drop at Robinsons Department Store where you find a wide assortment of quality items to suit the taste and lifestyle of you offers the best gift suggestions for everyone on your Christmas shopping list! It has the hottest trends for men and women, the most exc the home and so much more! This time of year, Robinsons Department Store makes sure everything is dolled up in Yuletide glam, every



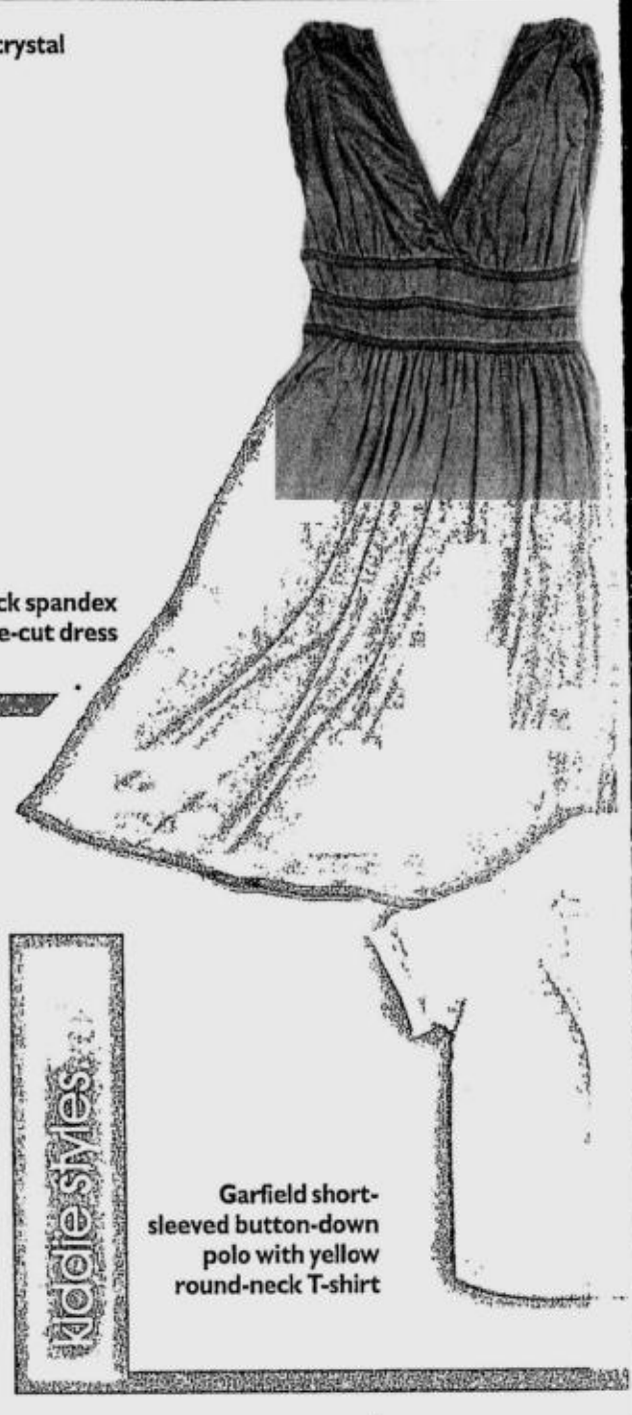
Van Heusen Christmas pack

Ferrari black Scuderia Christmas collection 2007

from boys to men...

holiday hot finds...

Versace bright crystal



Julia V-neck spandex empire-cut dress

Treats for the feast

Christmas is the best time to unite and bond with the clan. When you do make plans to fly Cebu Pacific for a safe, speedy and comfortable ride to your favorite destinations. Do-me-over spots are also a big hit this season whether it's your honeymoon or family vacation. Cebu Pacific promises you a hassle-free trip.

While you're doing your Christmas shopping in the Christmas spirit even more with the latest promo of Go! MasterCard and Metrobank credit cards for its cardholders.

Whether it's that dream doll house or bulldozer your kids have been wishing to find presents for your friends on their wish lists or your grocery needs for Noche Buena, just shop at participating Robinsons Retail Establishments and charge P2,000 to your Go! MasterCard or P2,500 to your Metrobank credit card and you instantly get a stylish Sling Bag absolutely FREE!

To avail yourself of the FREE Sling Bag, cardholders must simply shop at Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket, Handyman Do It Best Home Center, Handyman Do It Center, Robinsons Appliances, Toy "R" Us or True Value. Claim your early Christmas presents at the customer service counter of the Robinsons store where the purchase was made.

Present your charge slips and Go! MasterCard or Metrobank credit card. It's as easy as that.

Flight bookings through Go! MasterCard credit cardholders can also triple their rewards from Oct. 26, 2007 to Jan. 15, 2008 for every P200 spent in any Robinsons Retail Store or Cebu Pacific ticket offices during the promo period.

So GO! ahead and have fun with your Christmas shopping. Because with GO! MasterCard, your reward is in the Bag!

Log on to www.cebupacificair.com/downloads/go_mc_ticketoffice.doc to view participating Cebu Pacific ticket offices.

kiddie styles

Garfield short-sleeved button-down polo with yellow round-neck T-shirt

Top picks f Toys 'R'

1 Dora, Dress and Dance

2

Nintendo Wii

3 V-Tech Vsmile. TV learning system with DORA cartridge (includes console, A/V cable, Joystick, Learning Game Cartridge)

4 Leap Frog Click start My First Computer

It's that time of year when gift-giving brings cheers and joy...especially to the young ones! There's no sight more heartwarming than the smile of a child as she or he unwraps that present.

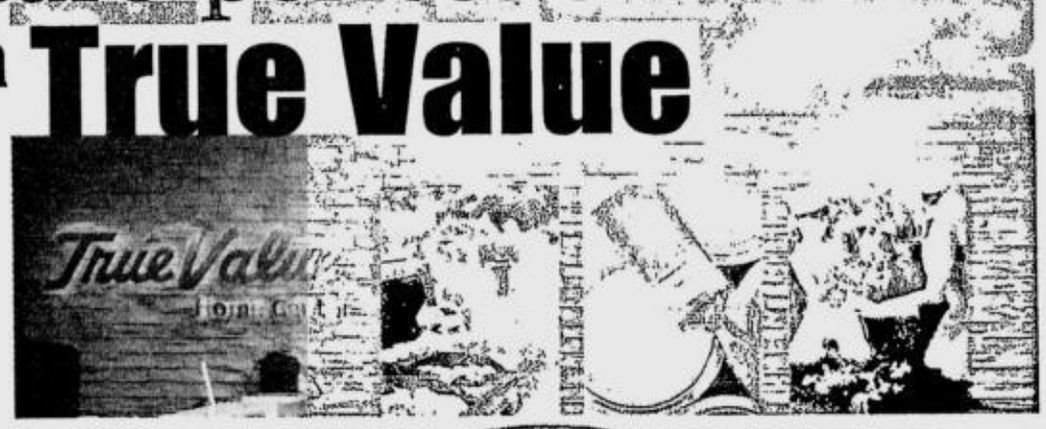
Let Metrobank Card show you the way to that child's smile.

Pick out these surprises at Toys "R" Us. Apart Barbie dolls for the girls and Lego and Droids goodies for the boys, it has the most modern toys to wow the kids, from remote-controlled cars to computers and TV learning systems. For the younger ones, the Sesame Street Jumbo Lounging Elmo or the Dora Doll Khaki Cuddle Plush will definitely elicit cheers of joy.

Use your Metrobank Credit Card or Go! MasterCard when you shop at Toys "R" Us and gift yourself as well by getting a stylish sling bag for FREE when you charge a minimum of P2,500 or P2,000 to your Metrobank Credit Card or Go! MasterCard respectively. So go ahead and shop at Toys "R" Us and see what it feels like to make a kid happy at Christmas!

A picture-perfect Christmas with True Value

Turn your house into a picture-perfect one this Christmas with True Value's perfect color paints, decorative hardware for finishing touches and unique lawn and garden décor. And to complete your holiday festivities, check out True Value's outdoor furniture such as teakwood tables and chairs, gazebos, gas/charcoal grill and accessories for the holiday grill parties. And don't forget the Christmas gifts for your friends and loved ones, you'll find them in all True Value Home Centers.

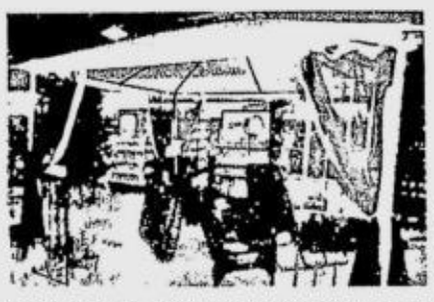


Teak square table with stacking chair

True Value E-Z Kare Semi Gloss paint

Weber Grill best for outdoor

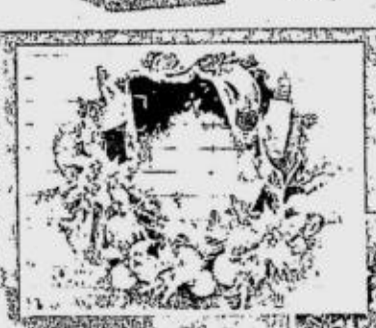
Work table with 9-pc Rubbermaid kitchen set

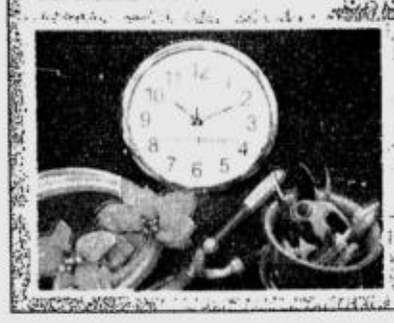


Gazebo for family gatherings

A big help from Ha

Black & Decker power tool for your hardworking Dad





Greenfield garden by Scotts Tru-Feed Corp. ₱1,000

Happy Holiday Shopping from

Metrobank
You're in good hands.

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ment Store

r family this holiday season. This retail giant
iting surprises for the kids, the best bargains for
thing starting with your home.

here for the holidays...

Corelle square- Autumn Mist 16-pc dinner set

Margaret Muir textured flower collection

BB Club dress and top and pants

Sequin bandeau, chunky chain link elastic belt, ruched ribbed hat, hooded fake fur jacket, black tights from TOPSHOP

Purple satin bubble dress from DOROTHY PERKINS

Style musts for the holidays

You can look good—even chic—while doing your Christmas shopping. Choose from a range of style must-haves from Topshop, Topman, Warehouse, Dorothy Perkins and Wallis. With these brands' holiday collections, looking great this season will be effortless.

Dorothy Perkins has knitwear and duffle bomber jackets for the nippy months. For the busy woman, Wallis has high-waist pencil skirts, pretty blouses and wide-legged pants. Topman yields a collection that is drawback to the rebellious European youth culture and music of the '80s. Topshop's hugely popular medieval collection is sheer glamour.

As a bonus use your Go! MasterCard and enjoy 0% installment on your purchases of these top brands.

Whatever your style, remember one thing this festive season—being the best-dressed is a must!

Studded open-back draped chunky chain link elastic belt, ruched ribbed hat, hooded fake fur jacket, black tights from TOPSHOP

Studded open-back draped chunky chain link elastic belt, ruched ribbed hat, hooded fake fur jacket, black tights from WAREHOUSE

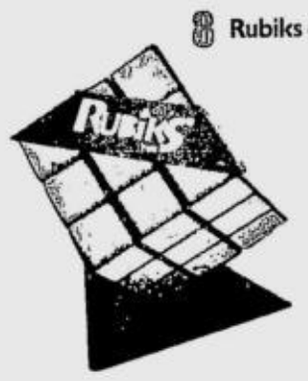
Striped polo shirt, jeans, tan leather belt from TOPMAN

Textured knit top, pencil skirt, buckle detail belt from WALLIS

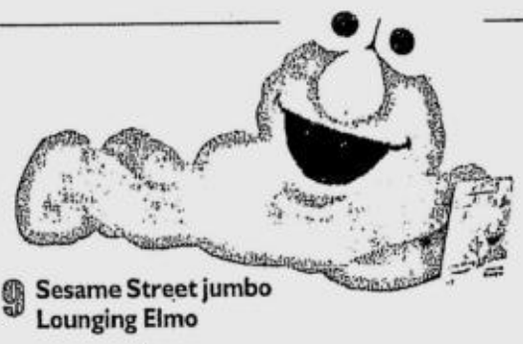
from Us

6 Transformers 6 Pack Movie Legends

7 Star Wars Lego Droids Battle Pack, Lego Clone Troopers, Lego Naboo N1 Star Fighter and Vulture Droid



8 Rubiks cube



9 Sesame Street jumbo Lounging Elmo

10 Fast Lane 1:16 Land Master remote-controlled car

5 Barbie Island Princess

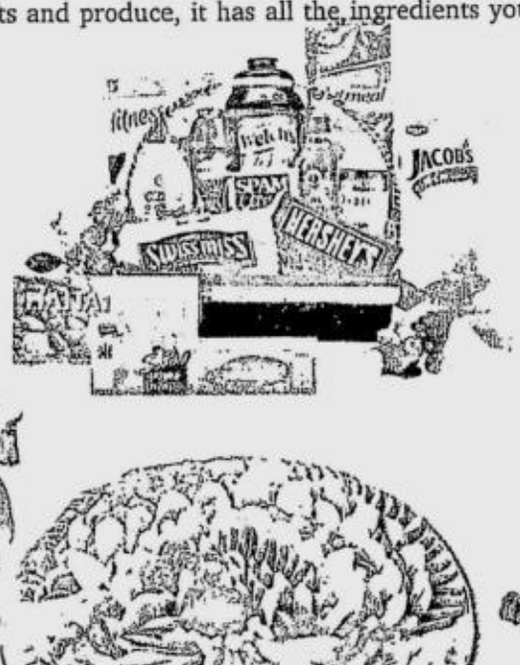
dyman

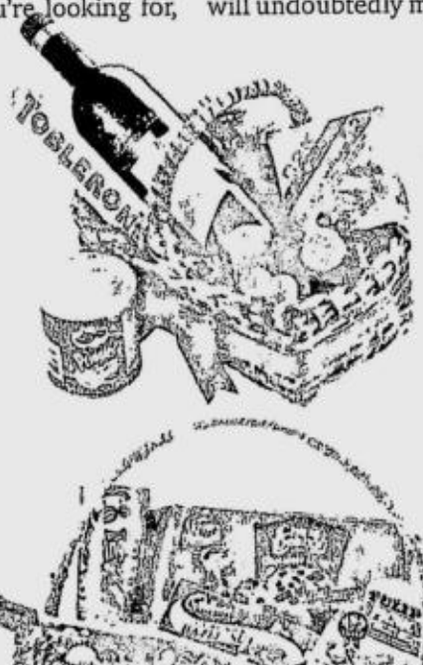
Fresh finds at Robinsons Supermarket

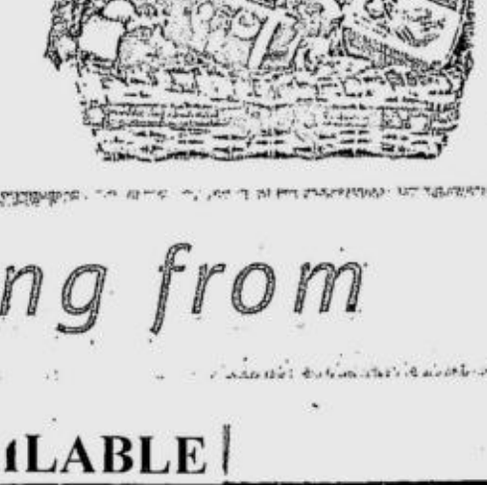
It's the season when tables are groaning from the weight of delicious dishes. With all the family reunions, instant parties and Noche Buena, keeping the cupboard well-stocked is a must.

For your grocery needs, Robinsons Supermarket is your one-stop destination. Apart from a wide and excellent selection of fresh meats and produce, it has all the ingredients you're looking for, from canned goods to noodles, from condiments to sweet treats. On top of these is the array of Christmas baskets—full-stacked and affordable—perfect gifts for your loved ones and friends.

Check out what's fresh this Christmas season at Robinsons Supermarket. Its competitive prices and impressive customer service will undoubtedly make you feel that Christmas cheer.







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TECHNO HAVEN

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For gadget enthusiast, AVANT is a techno haven, whatever your budget. It has tech essentials such as mobile phones, MP3 players (something any teenager would want to receive this Christmas!), the New iPod Touch and the iPod Nano in all sorts of cool colors and memory sizes.

AVANT also has digital cameras, video cameras, portable DVD players, laptops, and PDAs. And if you're looking for the ultimate must-have for the home, check out AVANT's wide selection of LCD TVs!. Avant has the latest LCD display in the country.

Don't forget the kids— especially the kids-at-heart! Get the best video game gadgets such as the PlayStation 3, Nintendo Wii, or PSP Lite and you'll surely be showered with thanks come Christmas day.

This Christmas, shop at any Abenson, Electroworld, Abea, HomePlus, and AVANT outlet using your Metrobank Credit Card and get a chance to win these amazing prizes: 10 huge shopping sprees worth P50,000 for each winner or a brand new Toyota Vios in the grand raffle draw!

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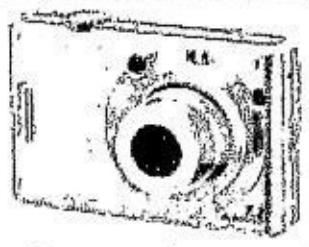
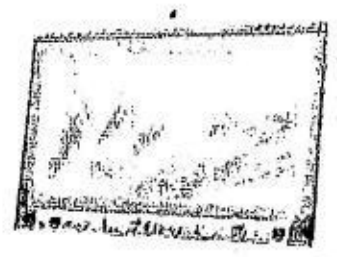
Also, you can get a FREE Red Ribbon Cake when you use your Metrobank Credit card for a minimum P15,000 single receipt installment purchase at any Abenson store only.

Got your Christmas bonus yet? Head to the Abenson now! Do your Christmas shopping and don't forget to use your Metrobank Credit Card!



Capture precious moments with the Sony DSC-W35

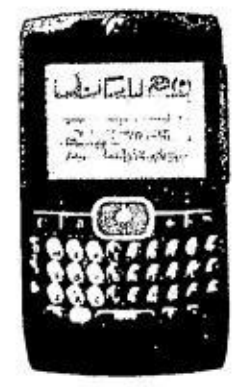
The iPod Shuffle



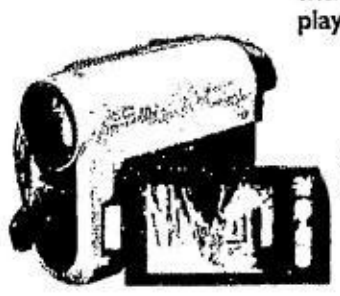
Apple iPod classic

Watch your favorite movie with the portable DVD player from Philips

Apple Macbook



Perfect gift for gadget freaks : Motorola Q8 and Nokia N77



Capture every moment with a Sony camcorder

Holiday Feasts... I'll here!

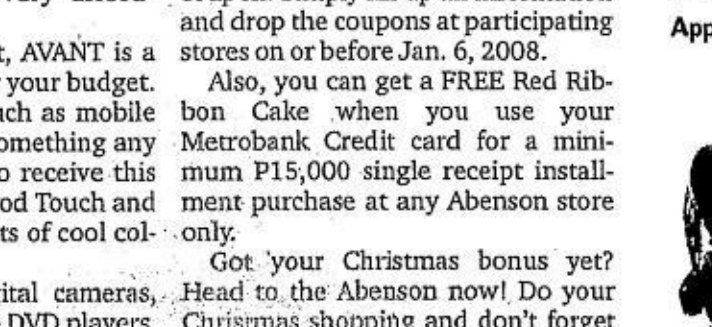
Nothing beats the combination of great food and awesome company. Which explains why Gaisano Grand Malls and Gaisano Malls all over the country are the perfect venues for your holiday celebrations.

With the Christmas season comes a wide variety of delicious food choices. Whether you're craving for Filipino, Spanish, Hawaiian, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Mediterranean, Indian, or American cuisine, Gaisano Malls and Gaisano Grand Malls have the perfect restaurant for you.

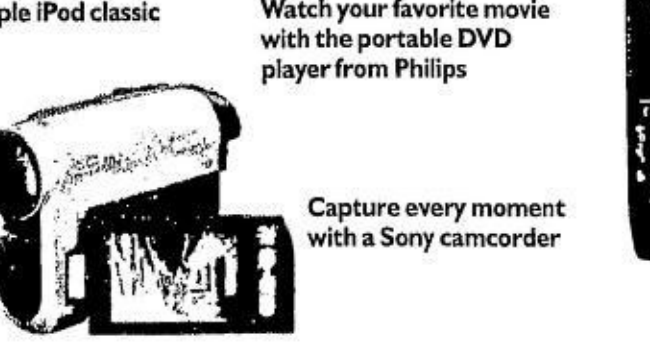
Why not start your holiday feasting with Gaisano Grand Mall's Polukai Grill, which offers Hawaiian American specialties? Or maybe you'd like to try Musabi Slam, a delicious combination of fried egg, Spam, and homestyle potatoes — a great treat for mom on the way to breakfast. Or maybe you'd like to start your holiday feasting with Gaisano Grand Mall's Chelsea, which has been dishing out delicious dishes to your hearts' delight since 1988. Chelsea's Baby Back Ribs, Spanish Paella, Seafood Platter, or simply a bowl of their delicious and filling Chicken Noodle Soup are sure to satisfy your every craving.

Make sure your friends and family are invited to your holiday feasting at the Mediterranean Cuisine of Gaudi's Bar and Café. Specialties include Grilled US Angus Beef Steak, Blackened Sea Bass, and Stuffed Squid. Or if you're looking for a trendy, casual dining place, check out Larry's Bar and Café, a unique combination of gourmet food market, signature bar, and cozy restaurant. Larry's is a neighborhood coffee bar and tapas bistro. Be lazy around—who knows, a new romance may be just around the corner. With all the great food choices to choose from, the whole family is sure to have a great time feasting together.

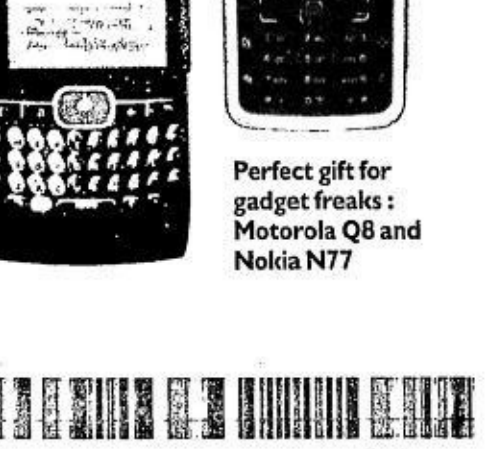
Metrobank Credit Card will make every moment more rewarding when you use your Metrobank Credit Card to pay for your holiday feasting. Enjoy 0% installment payment plan for 3 months with your Metrobank Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Titanium MasterCard, Platinum MasterCard, Gold Visa, Platinum Visa, Gold MasterCard, Classic MasterCard, Gold Dollar MasterCard, Platinum Dollar MasterCard, Gold Dollar MasterCard). Visit Gaisano Grand Malls and Gaisano Malls for your holiday feasting with Metrobank Credit Card. Make every dining experience more rewarding with Metrobank Credit Card. It's more fun in the Philippines!



Gaudi offers Spanish Cuisine at its best.



Enjoy and feel relaxed at Gaudi's perfect Spanish ambience.



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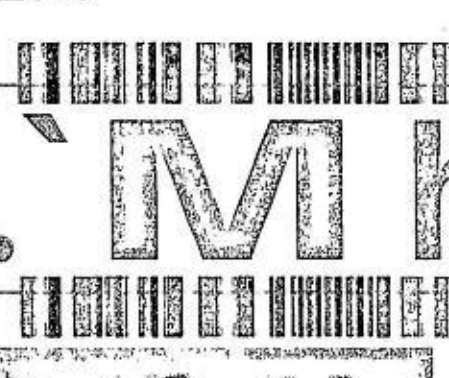
A trendy yet casual place to be: Chelsea



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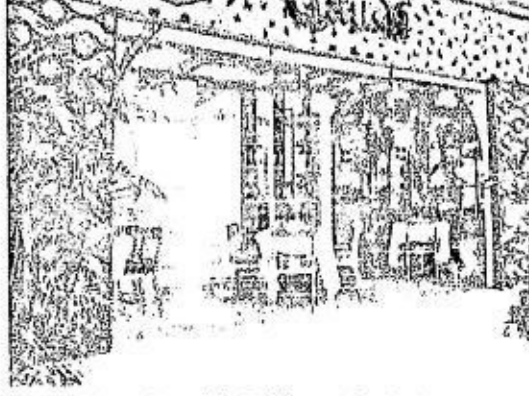
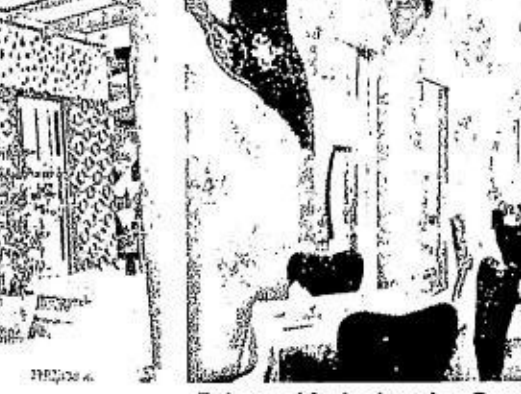
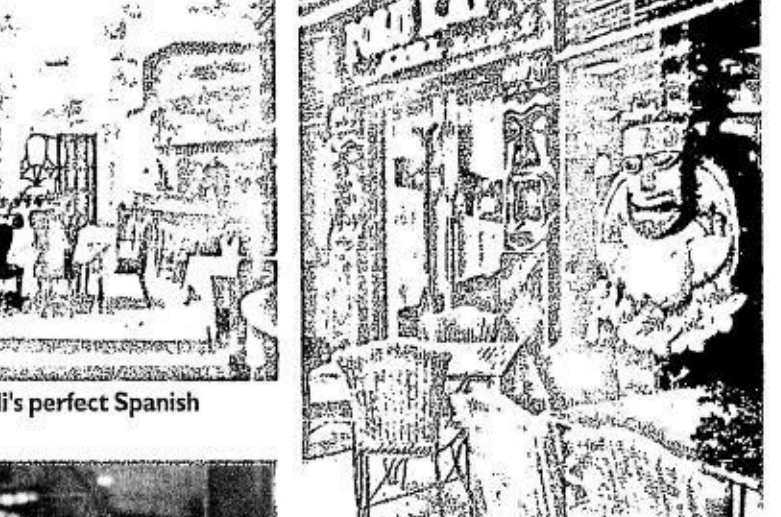


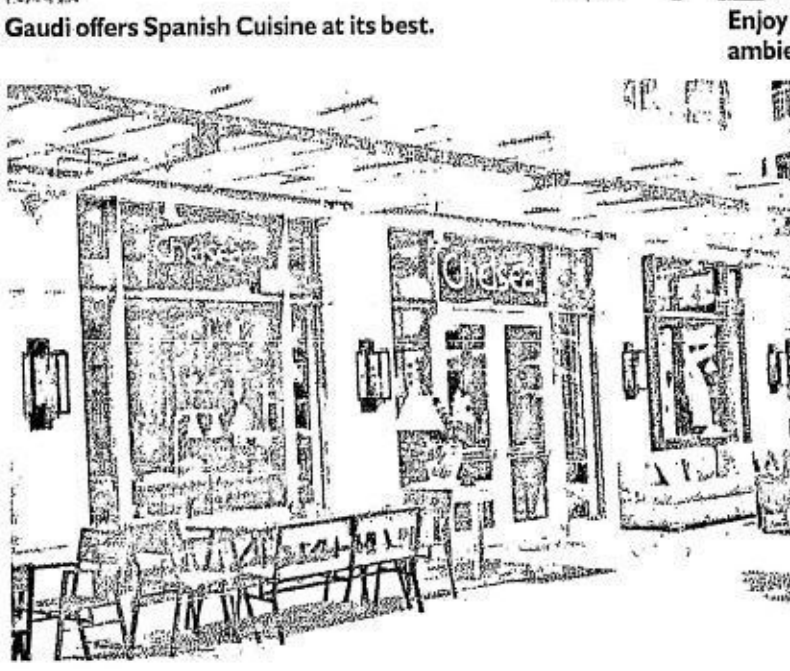
Enjoy the laid-back interior of Larry's Bar and Café



The very impressive interior of Polukai Grill



A place for intimate gathering only at Fez Restaurant and Bar



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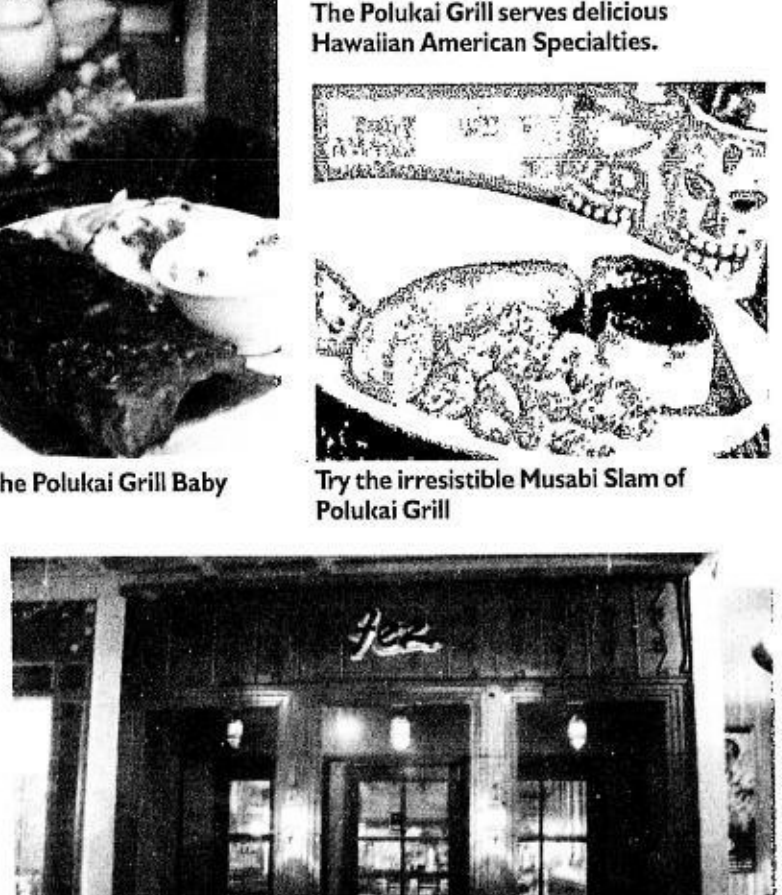
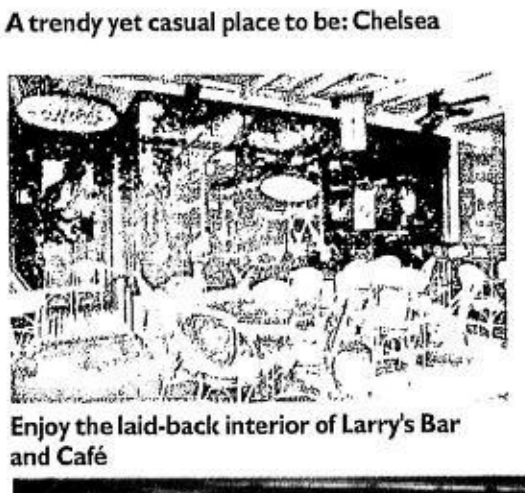
A must try! Fried Banana only at Polukai Grill



Cozy ambiance of Larry's Bar and Café



Sumptuous oysters at Polukai Grill

Delicious Chowder with shrimp soup best served at Polukai Grill

Treat Yourself to a great Christmas dinner wherever you see this sign!

I'll here! my place

TECHNO HAVEN

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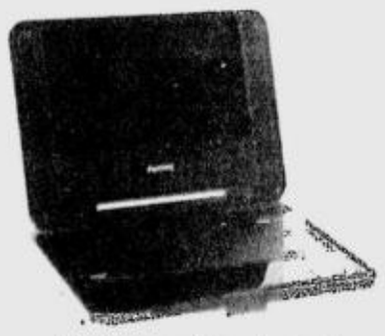
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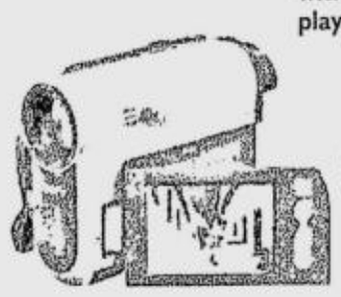
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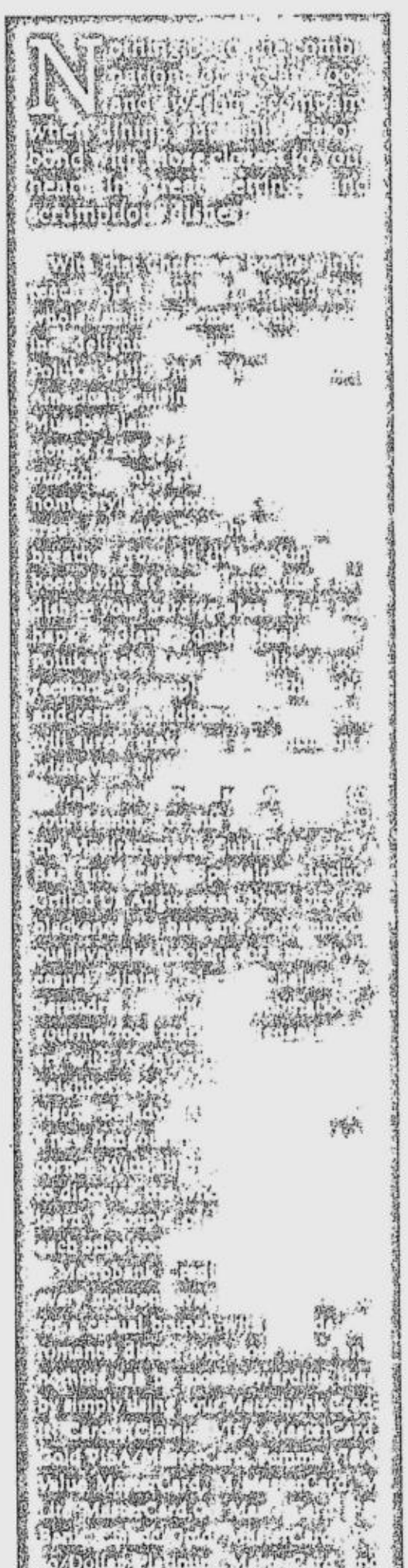

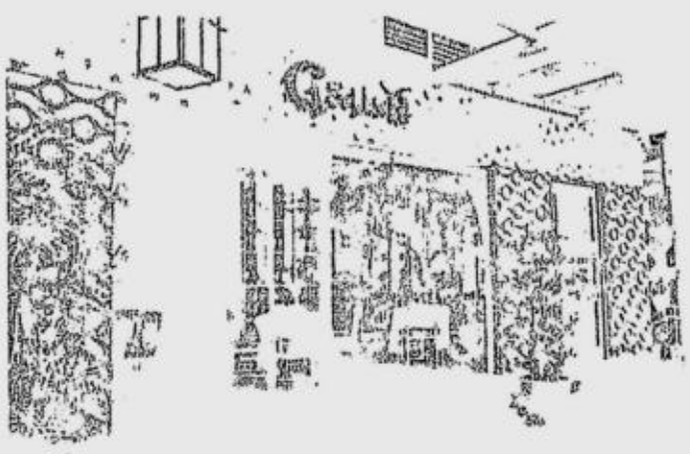
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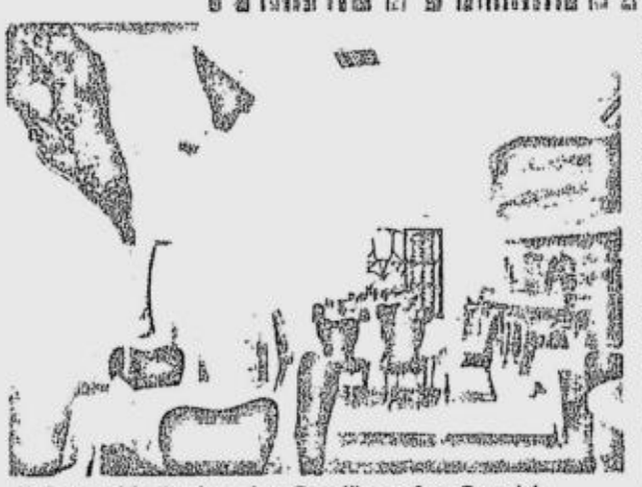
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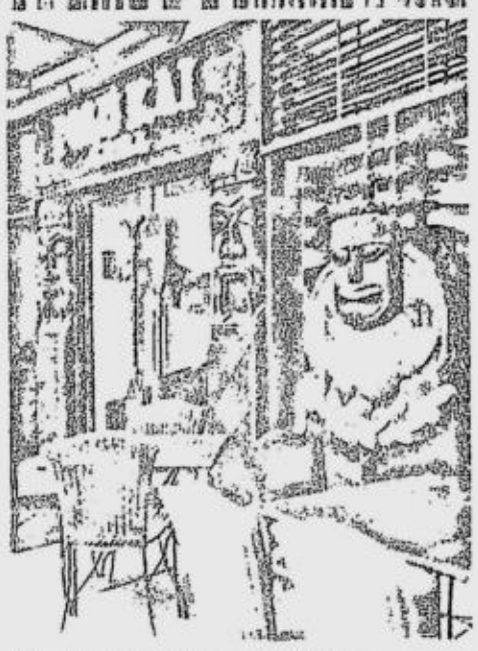
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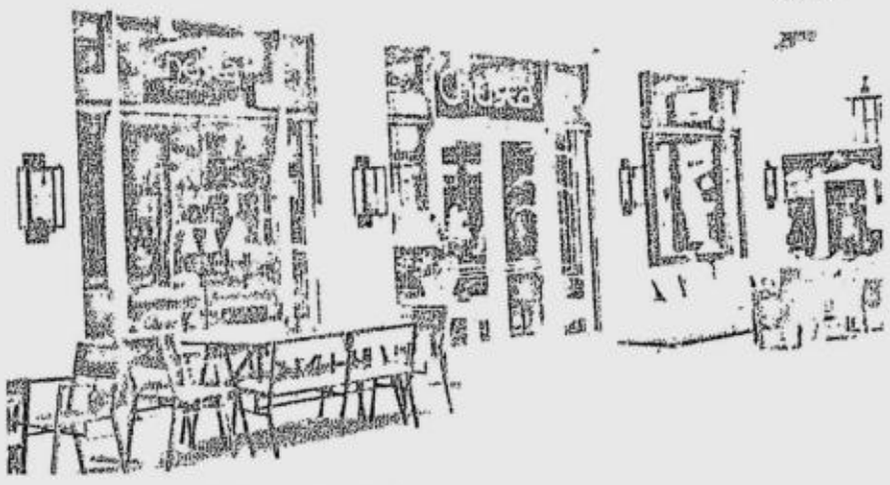
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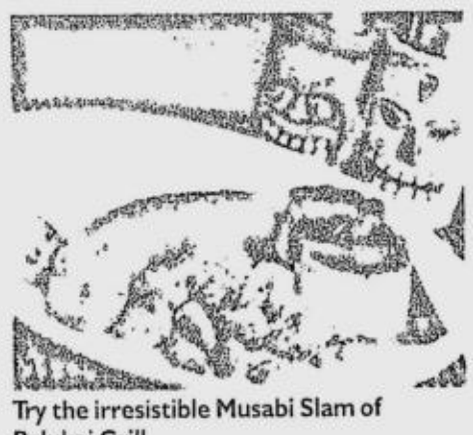
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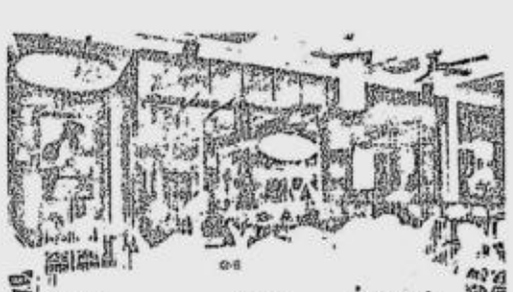
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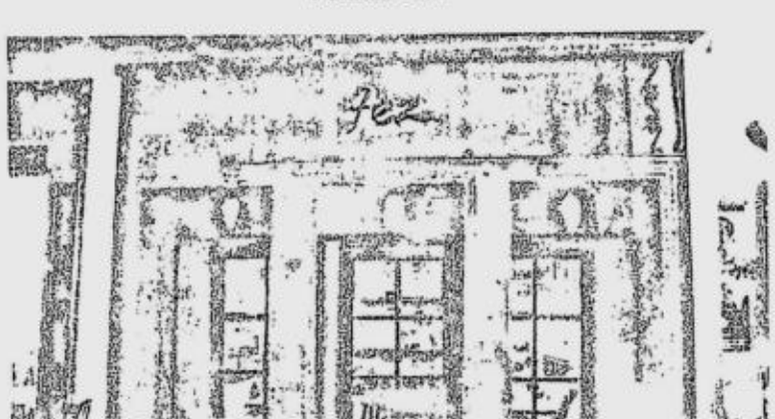
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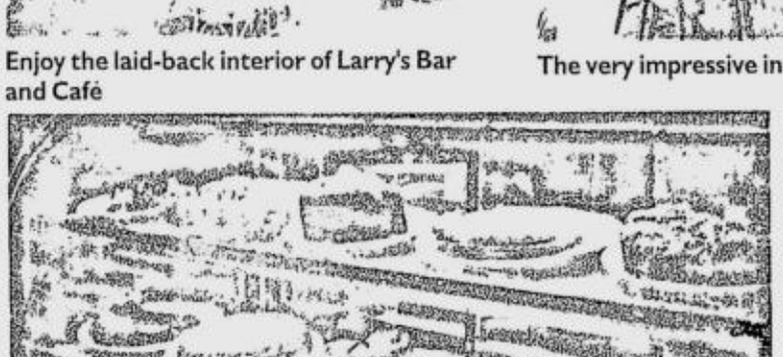
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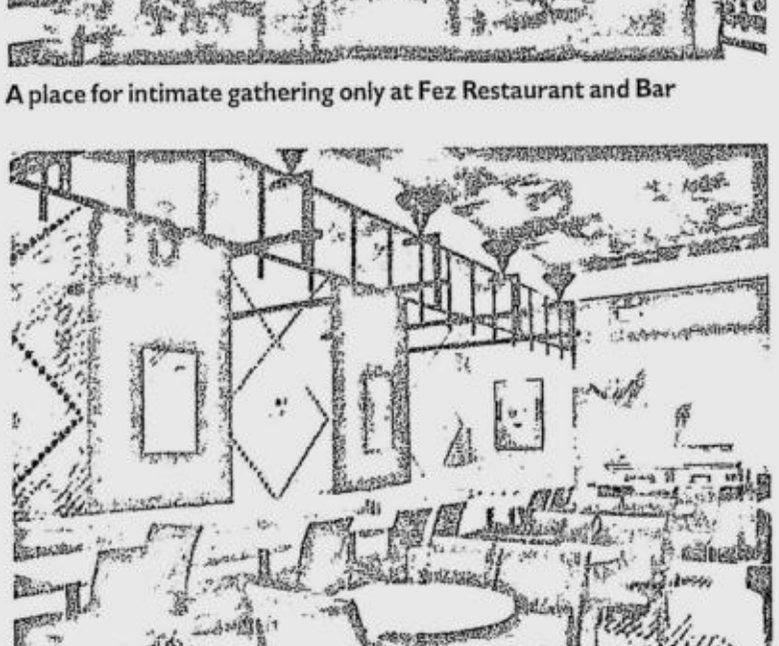
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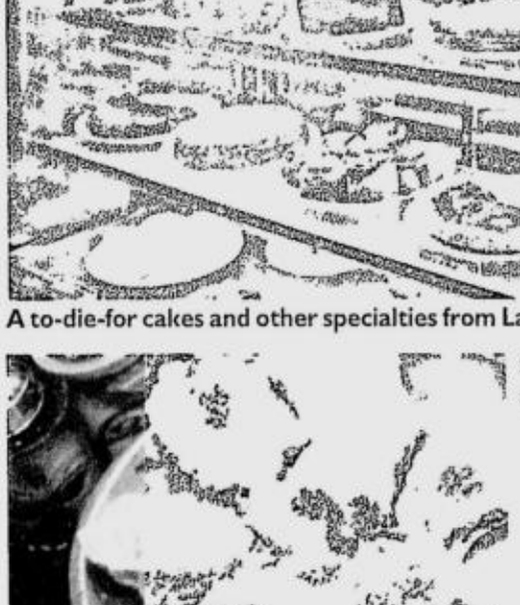
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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

Tried & True @ 22

The awesome responsibility of the journalist, according to INQUIRER founding chair, Magsaysay awardee Eugenia Duran-Apostol **/ M5**

New logo of the Inquirer publications unveiled: 16 publications come together as One with the INQUIRER as the mother of them of all **/M6**

Wow! Kids discover the joys of reading, thanks to celebs, bookworms and the passionate book lovers of the PDI Research Department **/N1**

That certain look of PDI visuals: Not just a wallpaper but defining the Big Picture **/02**

More than 200 awards in 22 years, and counting **/R4**

SUNDAY'S BEST: Radical optimism is all the rage. What is it? Read all about it on Page **01**

Listening to and learning from the concerns of business/sports readers/ leaders **/P1**

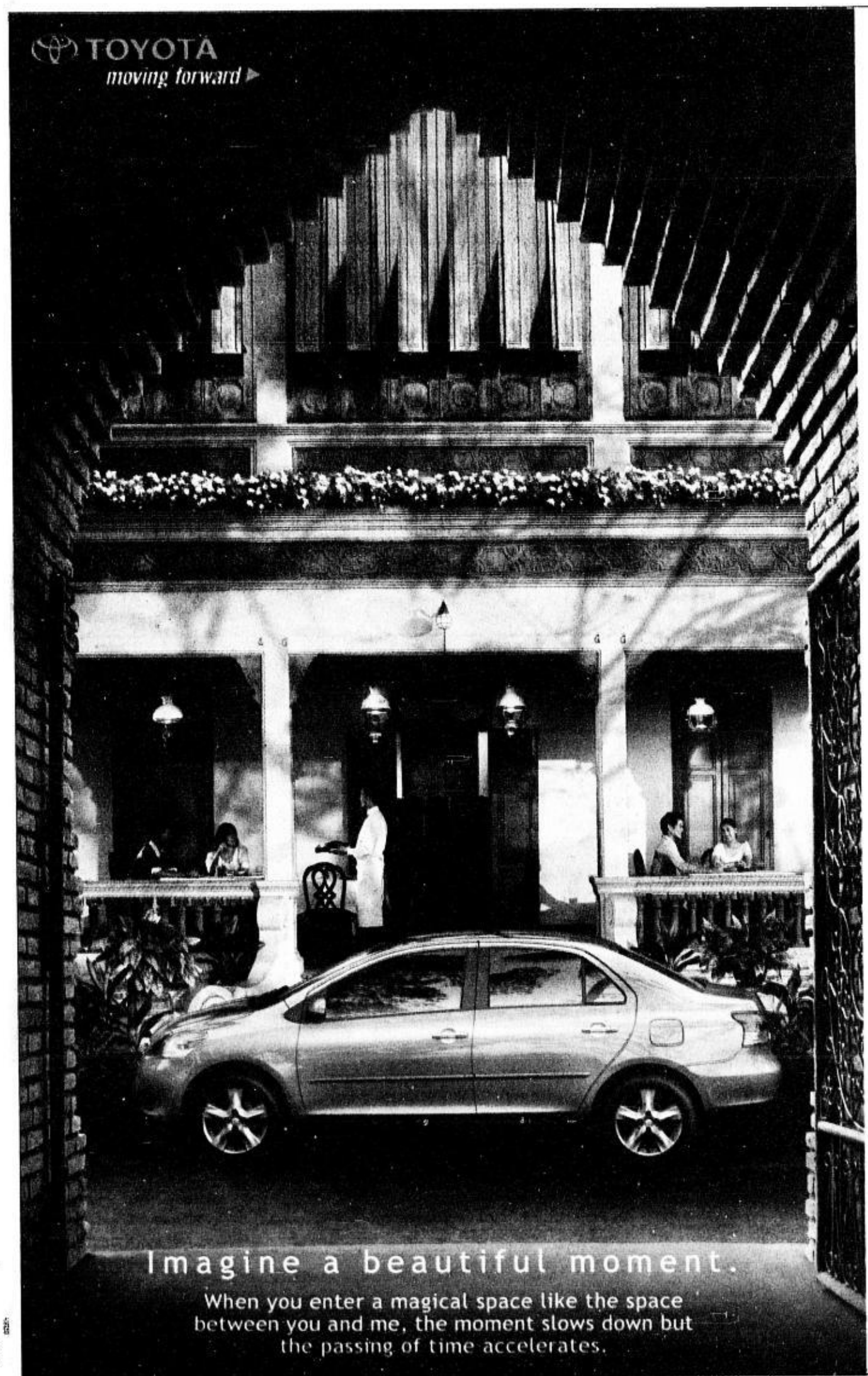
Inquirer Briefings: Off-the-record conversations with the wise may sow seeds of lasting change that promise an abundant harvest **/01**

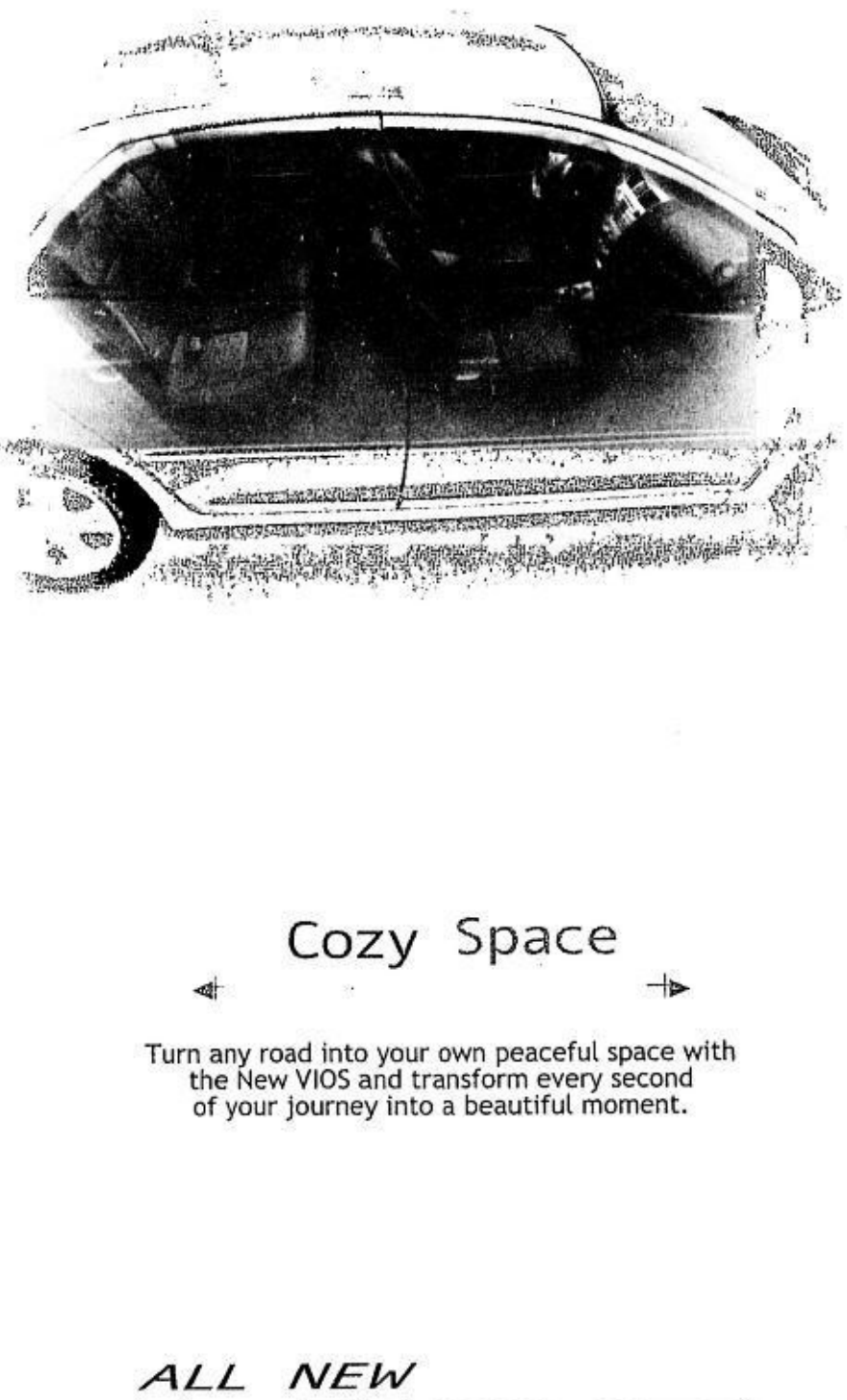
Ordinary folk can be journalists. Inquirer Metro proves it with "Citizens Call" **/Q4**

The fearless has 417 agents of change **/T3**

TOYOTA
moving forward

TOYOTA
500
THOUSAND





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DEFINING MOMENTS

Making history behind the news

THE NEWSPAPER OF CHOICE of People Power at Edsa I

INQUIRER PHOTO

THE NOW ICONIC page 1 banner story of the INQUIRER the day after the fall. INQUIRER PHOTO

By Manuel L. Quezon III
Columnist

IN HIS ZEAL TO BE THE ALPHA and Omega of Philippine history, Ferdinand E. Marcos thought the press was his smash and then rebuild in his image. For a decade—from the height of his absolute rule in 1973, until the assassination of his political nemesis, Ninoy Aquino in 1983—it seemed the Great Dictator would achieve his ambition.

In his upcoming magisterial account of the defunct Manila Chronicle, "The Power and the Glory: The Manila Chronicle 1945-1998," Raul Rodrigo includes this cameo of feisty Eggie Apostol. With Ninoy Aquino's murder had come a revival of the independent press. Apostol had begun publishing Mr. & Ms. as a weekly magazine, which later transformed itself into a weekly tabloid, the Philippine Inquirer, which focused on the opposition to Marcos and the official investigation into Aquino's assassination.

The sign

But by October 1985, the Philippine Inquirer was losing P100,000 a week; and Rodrigo, in his history of The Chronicle, which includes a thorough account of the goings-on in the entire postwar media, chronicled in turn, the serendipitous turn of events that launched a new broadsheet.

Rodrigo has Apostol reminiscing, thus: "I thought it was the end of my newspaper publishing days, until in November 1985, Marcos announced the holding of a snap presidential election the following February. That to me was the sign I had been waiting for. I could not sleep. The questions kept popping in my head: Shall we? Should we? Was it time to start a daily newspaper? I knew I was treading unfamiliar and dangerous territory."

But tread that territory she and an intrepid band of veteran journalists did, with a maiden issue on Dec. 9, 1985 and an initial print run of 30,000. A nation demonstrated a virtually insatiable appetite for "Balanced News, Fearless Views"—in contrast to the propagandized news and bootlicker views of the crony press, grown dull, stupid, and dismissive by being coddled by the dictatorship.

Baptism of fire

The resounding success of a new, crusading paper, triggered in turn the return of familiar names after Edsa I People Power Revolt such as the Philippines Free Press, and, in turn, the return of premartial law fixtures such as the Manila Times and the Manila Chronicle which tried to make a comeback.

The 1980s gave way to the 1990s with the INQUIRER still firmly in the lead; expansive, expanded, prosperous, and influential. If the paper was born in the twilight of a dictatorship, the INQUIRER would face its true baptism of fire, as a populist President marshaled the powers of persuasion—and intimidation—of his office, in an attempted show down.

The Estrada boycott

On July 8, 1999, then President Joseph Ejercito Estrada met with his movie producer friends, and asked them to withdraw their advertisements from the INQUIRER. That same month, the Metro Pacific Group, which includes the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart, Piltel, and the Port Bonifacio Development Corp., canceled its advertisements. And government institutions, among others, the Land Bank, the Philippine National Bank and the Social Security System received their marching orders to withdraw their advertisements, as well.

Estrada was on the warpath because his efforts to influence the INQUIRER's coverage had been rebuffed. In April, he'd tried to apply

MAKING/ M3

SUN VALLEY ESTATES

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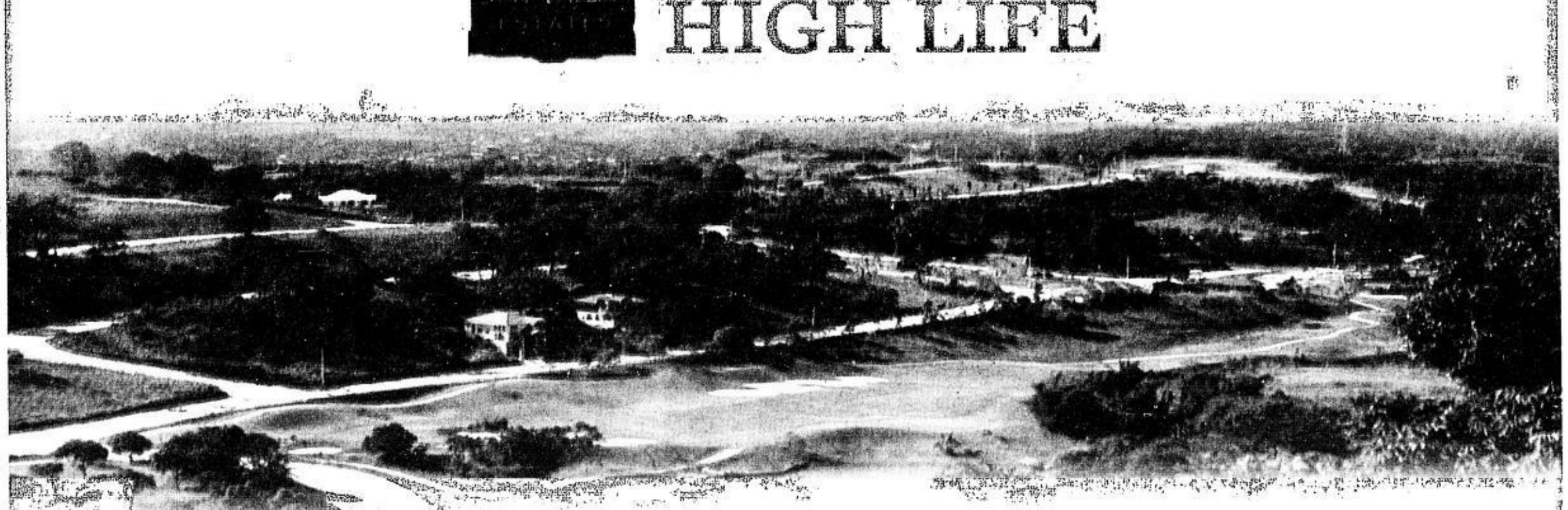
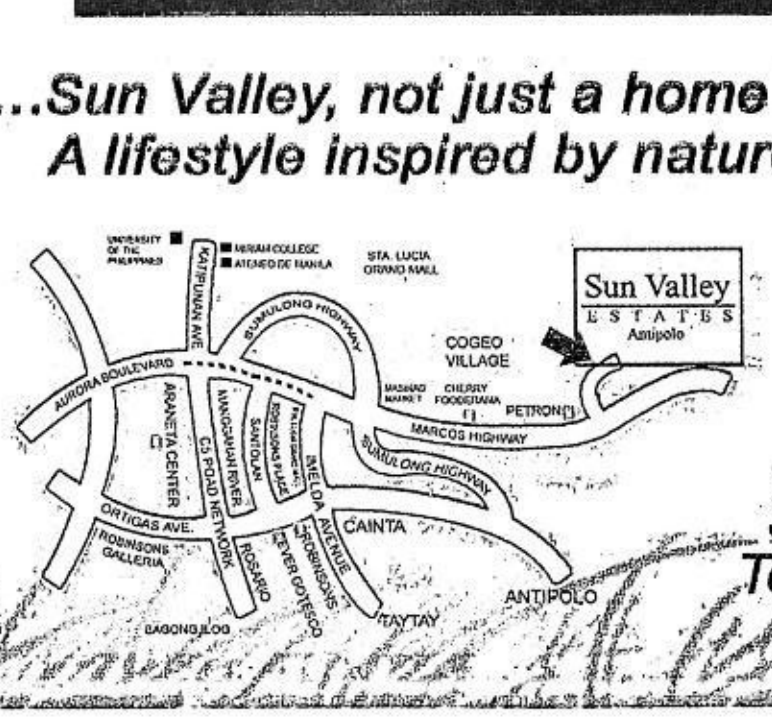


...Sun Valley, not just a home but a way of living.
A lifestyle inspired by nature's superb beauty.



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Making history ...

From page M2

pressure on the INQUIRER, to downplay a story on a textbook purchasing scandal; Presidential pique over articles critical of Estrada's family, friends and officials in his administration, turned into a Palace-instigated vendetta unseen since the Macapagal and Marcos assaults on critical media. Even as Estrada denied, in public, that he had instigated a boycott, he very publicly barred two INQUIRER reporters from presidential press briefings on several occasions in July.

His vendetta represented the first time a leading and not niche paper had become the target of official ire. Though the chief executive's stratagem was as old as the hills—a tactic first pursued at the turn of the 20th century by American governors-general against the nationalist newspaper, El Renacimiento—it was the first time a President had combined his influence on government advertisements with a corresponding effort by businessmen beholden to the incumbent, to bring a leading paper to its knees.

General assembly

With ad placements having dropped 80 percent virtually overnight, a dramatic meeting took place in the INQUIRER. Grouped along the sweeping central stairs in the lobby, every INQUIRER employee listened as the paper's president, Sandy Prieto (she was still single), presented the paper with a choice. They could, every one of them, tighten their belts, and forego benefits, and thereby give the paper a fighting chance, advertisers or no advertisers. Sweeping economies would have to be made—and accepted by all. To a man—and woman—labor and management expressed the determination to fight.

MAKING/ M4

EDSA II AT EDSA SHRINE. Gloria in excelsis over the withdrawal of military support led by AFP Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes from President Joseph Estrada

THE BELOVED FATHER BOSSI/July 25, 2007: Children rush to greet Father Giancarlo Bossi at Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay during a thanksgiving Mass. This was Bossi's first time to return to his Parish after he was released by his captors. INQUIRER PHOTO/RAFFY LERMA

DECEMBER 21,2004: Ousted Philippine President Joseph Estrada strokes the hair of his best friend and former Presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. as he attends his wake Tuesday evening at Santo Domingo Church Manila. Estrada was allowed by an antigraft court briefly from detention to attend Poe Jr.'s wake. Poe Jr. died Dec. 14 following a massive stroke. He was 65. INQUIRER PHOTO/VAL HANDUMON

JULY 10, 2000: Workers rescue one of residents buried in a mountain of garbage that fell on houses in the Payatas dumpsite in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

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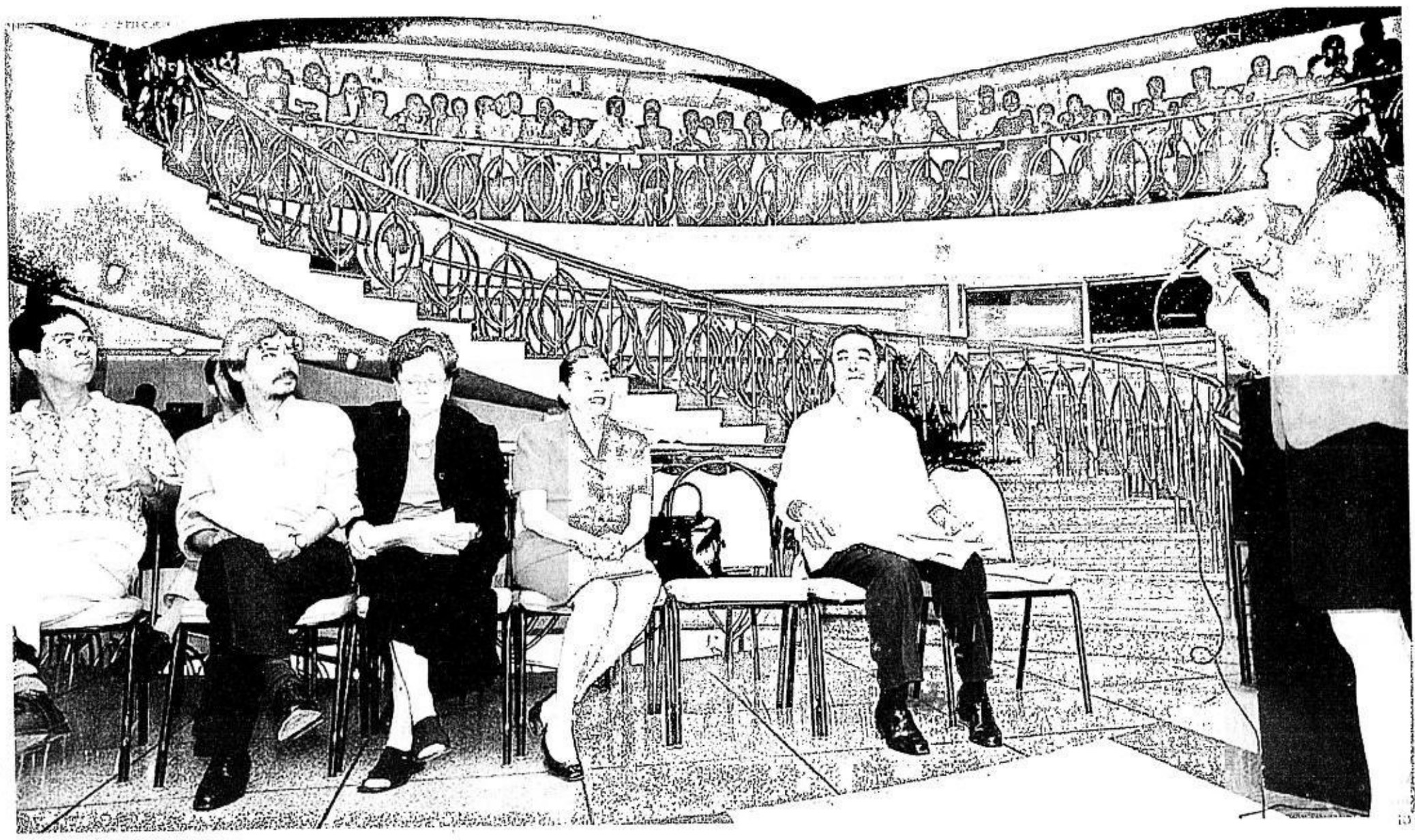
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The @22



GENERAL ASSEMBLY was called by management on April 9, 1999, during the initial days of the Estrada boycott of the INQUIRER. Sandy Prieto assured the INQUIRER would remain true to its mission. They believed her and cheered. Up front seated, are from left, news editor Artemio Engracia, managing editor Joey Nolasco, editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc, PDI chair Marixi Prieto and publisher Isagani Yambot.

Making history behind the news

From page M3

This would be more than about jobs, this would be about defending their editorial integrity to the bitter end.

Sandy did not raise the dreaded "R" word for retrenchment. Instead, she assured that every employee would keep his/her job even if the INQUIRER would be down to publishing only eight pages without ads. The INQUIRER will not stop publication, Sandy said and everyone in that assembly believed her and cheered. They were close to tears.

Seeing the INQUIRER reeling, Estrada succumbed to hubris. In June, he widened his campaign to include all print media by declaring he would no longer answer questions coming from print reporters, preferring instead to speak exclusively via television and radio. Yet this move would prove the high point of his struggle; the INQUIRER would continue not only to resist, but would even increase its standing before its peers and the public.

Businessweek, in a profile of Letty Jimenez Magsanoc, lauded her decision to continue coverage as usual. "The paper scaled back to 40 pages from 62, and shut off the air conditioning at 6 p.m.," the magazine recounted, "But every reporter still got a paycheck—and kept reporting." Magsanoc dryly observed, "We barely survived."

Some companies defied the President's wishes; smaller firms like Marie France (which has since grown) deliberately placed ads, as a sign of moral support. The public voted with its pocketbooks and circulation increased: not least, because the paper refused to rest on its laurels and instead, engaged in a remorseless round of self-criticism. As Magsanoc recounted, "We did see there was some in-your-face-reporting, and there were times when we didn't tell the other side. So now that's a mantra for us, 'Tell the other side.' There was stuff we took for granted because we were No. 1. It was a good wake-up call to go back to the basics of fairness and accuracy. We had sort of glossed over things and become smug. It was a good time to examine ourselves. We want to get the other side."

By November 1999, the worst was over, though out of dogged loyalty, some of Estrada's closest supporters continued to conspicuously keep their advertising at a reduced level.

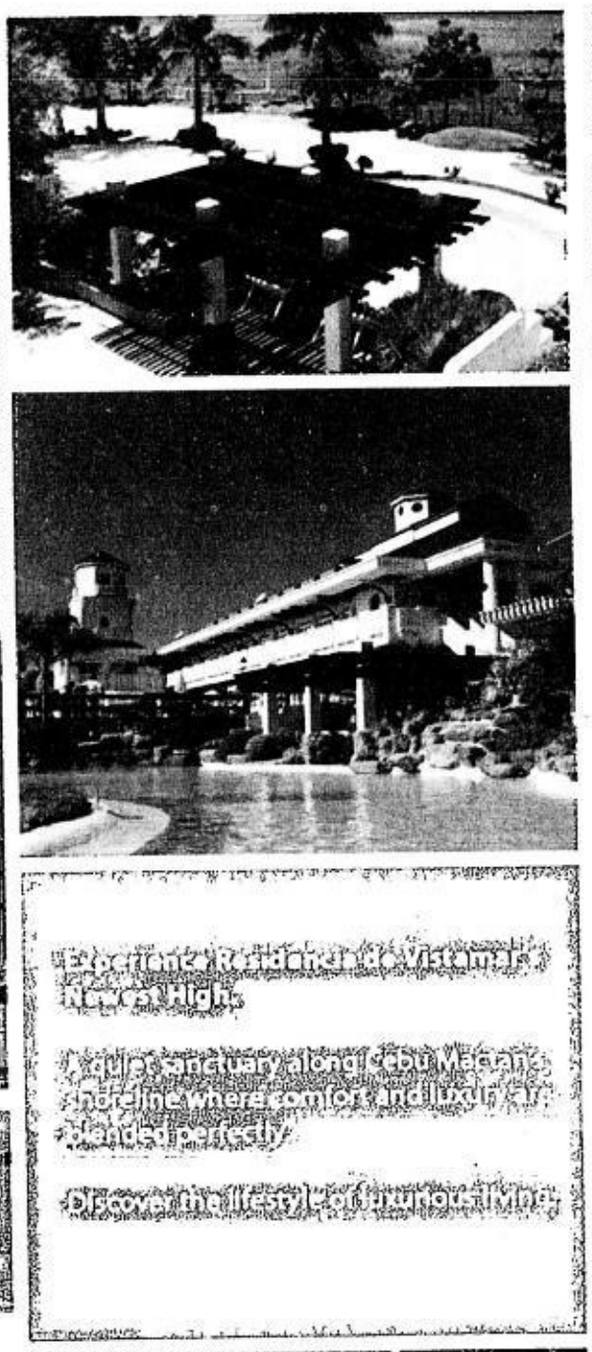
Paper of record

Estrada would ply INQUIRER editors with wine, and formally make his peace. But his administration had begun to sink; and it would be the INQUIRER that would herald and chronicle a second People Power.

Impeachment, walkouts, a nation in revolt and a President who decided to flee, were all covered by the INQUIRER as the leading journal of record for history in a hurry. The legal basis for Estrada's fall from power would even be determined, to a certain extent, by the INQUIRER's decision to publish former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara's crisis diary, of which the Supreme Court took judicial notice. And whether in rebellions in May 2001, at Oakwood, in February 2006, and most lately, at the Makati standoff, the INQUIRER was there, too: focused on bringing the news, regardless of whether it provoked official displeasure.

The continuing struggle of media today, to maintain its independence, and yet remain responsive to the ever-increasing demand of the reading public for accuracy, timeliness, fearlessness and optimism, remains a struggle foremost in the minds of the nation's leading broadsheet. In the 22 years that it's been tried by events, it has remained true to the public—and the public, in turn, has kept its faith in the INQUIRER.

la mirada
AT RESIDENCIA DE VISTAMAR



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STAMPEDE AT GAME SHOW
INQUIRER was right at the scene to capture the anguish of a grieving Melvin Salazar who lost his mother during the stampede that marred the holding of the hugely popular noontime television game show on Feb. 4, 2006 at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City. Seventy-three persons died in the incident. INQUIRER PHOTO/RAFFY LERMA

AND THEN THERE WERE FIVE
An INQUIRER lensman snapped this moment when five candidates for President in the May 2004 polls attended a church service at San Agustin in Intramuros. From left: Eddie Villanueva, Raul Roco, Fernando Poe, Jr., Panfilo Lacson and incumbent President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo VAL HANDUMON

HOME FOR GOOD
Overseas worker Angelo Dela Cruz, center left, is welcomed by his family after his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Dela Cruz was released after being held captive by militants in Iraq for 17 days. ROGER MARGALLO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER @ 22

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

After Marcos, the media should know now how to fight back

THE TORCH is passed from Eggie Duran-Apostol, INQUIRER founding chair, to present chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto. MANDY NAVASERO

God, Country and the Truth

By Eugenia Duran-Apostol
Inquirer founding chair

IS GOD ABOVE COUNTRY? IS THE Country above Truth? Truth and Journalism are inseparable. Journalists—at least those who hold true to their calling—are duty-bound to search for and reveal the Truth wherever it lies. Where the Truth proves difficult to pin down, journalists have a supreme obligation to get their facts straight and deliver these concisely, objectively—and I hasten to add, coherently—to the public under any circumstances, battlefield conditions and real or imagined media suppression notwithstanding.

When Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and his combat-ready escorts decided to walk out of the Makati Regional Trial Court, march down Makati Avenue and barricade themselves in one of Manila Peninsula's finest function rooms and declare a de facto rebellion, we of the broadcast and print media stood face to face with our awesome responsibility.

Never simple or easy

Journalistic integrity demands that media provide the public with the facility to make an informed assessment of a very fluid situation with potentially disastrous consequences. But covering armed rebellion is never simple nor easy.

Trying to get facts from opposing groups of grim-faced soldiers with heavy automatic weapons can be especially stressful for the noncombatant field reporter and his editor or TV anchor.

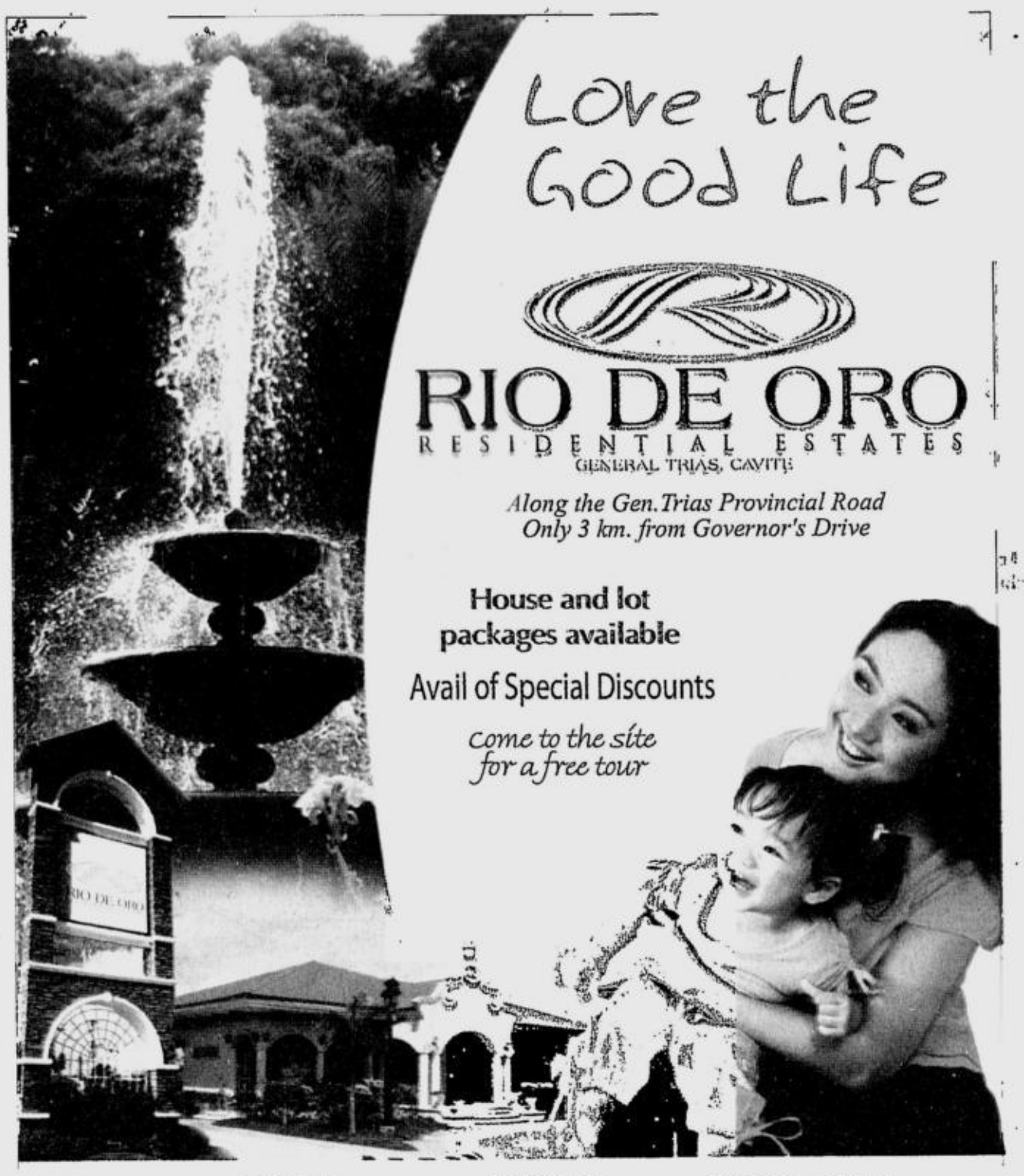
Timeliness is fundamental to journalism, but in our desire for a scoop we tend to "call it as we see it" as soon as we see an unfolding event, sometimes without the circumspection and plain common sense that is the hallmark of all great journalists.

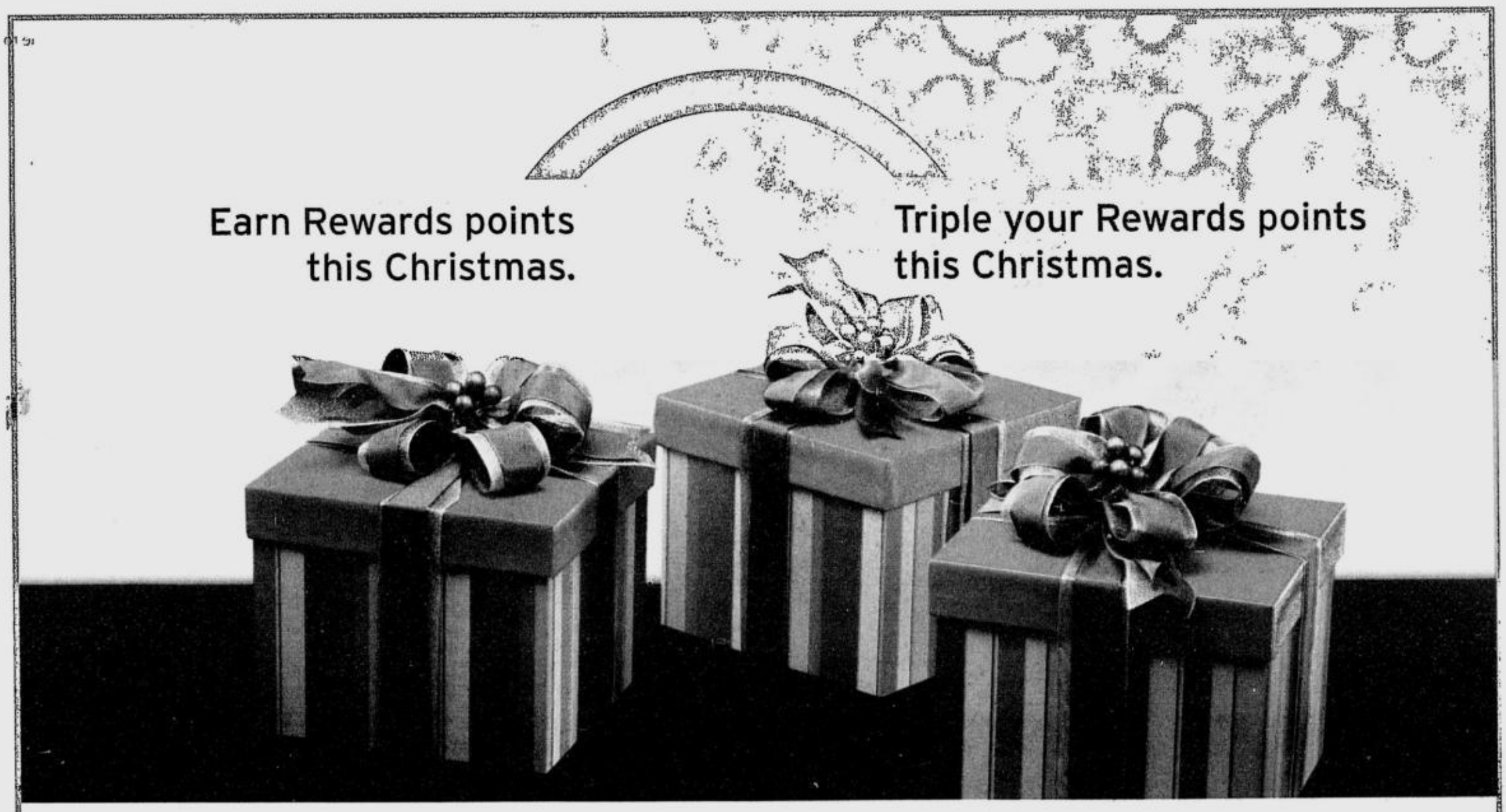
Like King Canute

For example, broadcasting troop movements in real time makes for great TV viewing but that kind of tactical information can complicate a tenuous situation. Before the PNP's Armored Personnel Carrier rammed through Manila Pen's elegant double doors, the PR-challenged police Director Geary Barias repeatedly asked reporters to leave the operations staging area as according to him, they might get in the way. The good general must be forgiven. He does not realize that asking any journalist of worth to walk away from news this big is like King Canute telling the tide to turn back. (Of course King Canute wasn't being vain. He only wanted to dramatize God's power.)

Many combat journalists have been hurt or even killed in the line of duty. That unfortunately comes with the territory. If we get the luck of the draw, at least our troubles were worth it because we were trying to reveal the truth. The problems that we encountered along the way are interesting, but we should not be the news. After all those years of media suppression during the Marcos dictatorship, we should already know how to fight back by now.

Still, our responsibility to the Truth has to hold. After all that tear gas has cleared and the Manila Pen reopened with very evident Yuletide mirth, have we held true to that responsibility? Have we led the Filipino people to the Truth?





ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ

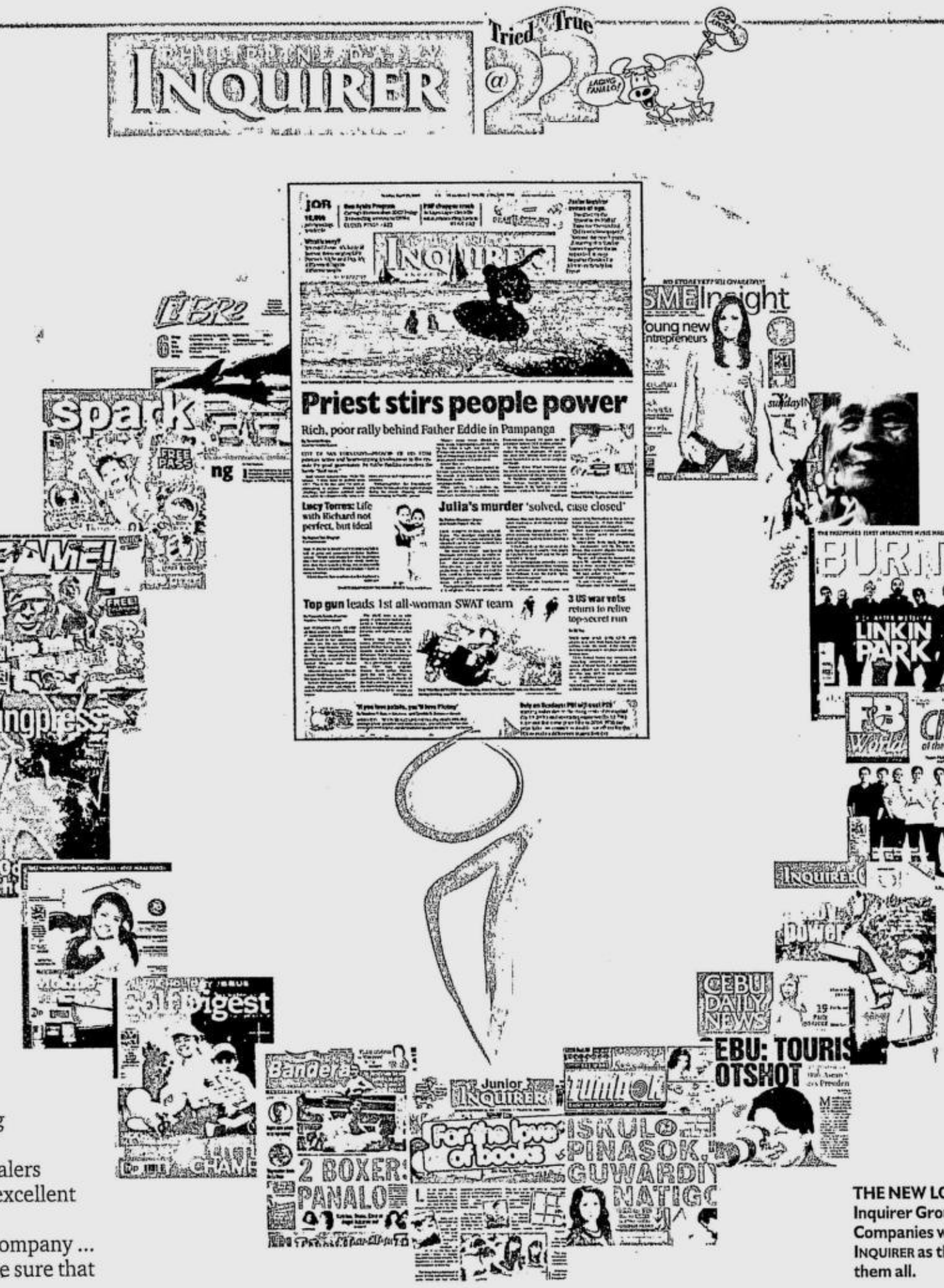
What the president/CEO says

The INQUIRER will stay true ...

- to serve the public with a passionate pursuit of truth to inspire positive change ...
- to embrace new technology in order to get to the reader/viewer anywhere. anytime ...
- to engage the community at different touch points whether it be through a thought-provoking opinion or a humorous feature ...
- to form meaningful partnerships with our dealers and suppliers so that we can provide advertisers excellent service ...
- to continue to be a dynamic and innovative company ...

In other words, to do everything we can to make sure that

INQUIRER = CREDIBILITY, EXCELLENCE AND PASSION.



THE NEW LOGO of the Inquirer Group of Companies with the INQUIRER as the Mother of them all.

The Group has now become One Inquirer

By Mundi Ocampo
Marketing services staff member

"ENABLING THE FILIPINOS WITH EVERY page."

For the past 22 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has established itself as the country's most trusted and most respected news organization. Its progress was marked not only by the number of ordeals and triumphs that the company has chronicled—and sometimes weathered—since its humble beginnings, the number of accolades that it has received from different recognition-giving bodies both here and abroad, and its consistent position as the number one newspaper in the country.

Moreover, the INQUIRER has expanded its credible and influential news and information service with ventures that specialize in reaching out to both broader and niche markets.

The brand

This growth has enabled the INQUIRER brand to reach not just the newspaper's subscribers, but also millions around the world through the Internet with Inquirer.net, the tabloid-reading masses with Bandera and Tumbok of Inquirer Publications Inc., along with readers in the South with Cebu Daily News, the niche publication audience of Hinge Inquirer Publications, and the state-of-the-art commercial printing services of Print Town, with four printing facilities across the country.

The ever-changing media landscape has raised the need for media companies to reinforce their wide range of products and market-focused services, and to provide advertisers with the best media solutions.

With capabilities that ensure the widest reach across all demographics, the INQUIRER companies have formalized the collaboration among their respective business groups by unified promotions to both readers and advertisers under the Inquirer Group of Companies (IGC) mark.

"With One Inquirer, we will be able to increase convergence points and achieve the vision of an INQUIRER that provides credible news and information anytime, anywhere," said INQUIRER president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, who spearheads all activities and preparations for the IGC launch.

Poch Bermudez, Hinge Inquirer Publications president, further emphasized the advantage of a unified promotions for IGC: "While it's obvious that all of the companies under IGC are taking advantage of the unparalleled reach of the broadsheet in terms of readership and advertiser influence, there is also no doubt that the diversity and uniqueness of the other IGC publications, both print and digital, only serve to dramatically increase IGC's influence over the spending decisions of advertisers and thinking patterns of its readers."

More platforms to access news

Inquirer Publications Inc. vice president for operations Imee Alcantara stressed on the scale of IGC's reach: "For the readers, it means having more platforms to access news and information. Having as many choices and as many exciting ways to be better informed. For the advertisers, it means a total package of solutions for their business needs and better cost efficiency. We can proudly say that we are the only publishing company that has done it."

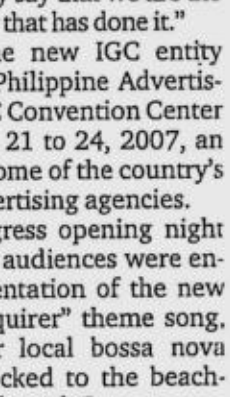
The unveiling of the new IGC entity kicked off at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress at the GVC Convention Center in Subic Bay from Nov. 21 to 24, 2007, an event which gathered some of the country's biggest brands and advertising agencies.

During the Ad Congress opening night hosted by the INQUIRER, audiences were enthralled with the presentation of the new IGC logo and "One Inquirer" theme song, performed by premier local bossa nova artist Sitti. Crowds flocked to the beach-themed IGC booth at the Ad Congress exhibit hall during the next three days.

Inspirational

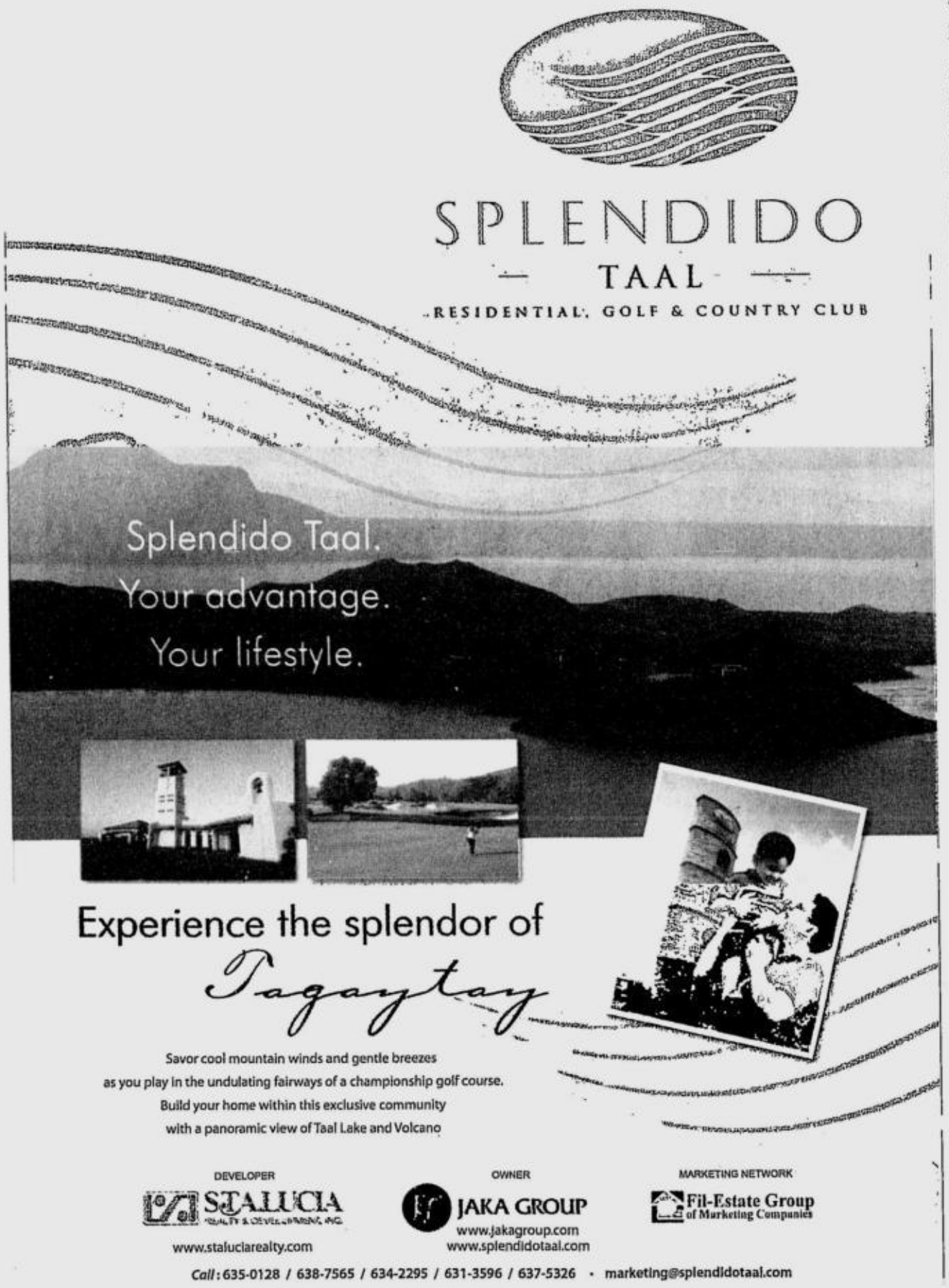
Several events paved the way for the IGC launch. Last August, over 60 members of the INQUIRER, including journalists, editors, executives, employees—both from the INQUIRER and its sister companies—were asked to represent the INQUIRER work force in a special video shoot. Also entitled "One Inquirer," the video features an inspirational take on the company's history and progress with the individuals who continue to keep the INQUIRER spirit alive.

Promoting creativity



WHEN I WAS ATTENDING THE 20TH PHILIPPINE AD CONGRESS IN SUBIC BAY recently I had the pleasure of opening The Cannes Lions Exhibition which is brought to the Philippines by the Philippine Daily Inquirer. I mentioned in my opening address that the role that the INQUIRER plays in promoting creativity in the market is a service that is of significance in lifting the creative bar and the subsequent skill level in the Philippine advertising market. This is a service that benefits the development of creativity in the country as a whole and is the type of leadership that the Philippine Daily Inquirer consistently shows in its market. At 22 they may be tried and tested but they are still innovating and understanding the need to keep moving forward and developing which is quite an achievement in any company.

TERRY SAVAGE, Cannes International Advertising Festival, executive chair



Not bad for a 22-year-old

ON BEHALF OF THE CREATIVE GUILD OFFICERS, I WOULD LIKE TO congratulate the Philippine Daily Inquirer on its 22nd anniversary. The leader among readers. Most respected. Most awarded. Tried and tested. Not bad for a 22-year-old. You have consistently brought the whole nation "balanced news and fearless views" all these years. Not only have you informed and influenced us, without sacrificing the truth, but you've also paved the way for Philippine creativity. The advertising industry feels so proud of the first and only newspaper to represent the country in Cannes. As innovative as ever, you've also inspired the entire creative community to compete in the global arena with your PDI Cannes Delegate Program. For this we are grateful. Now, let me share with you my belief: to be a great creative, one has to be an "Inquirer" everyday.

MERLEE CRUZ-JAYME, 2007 president, The Creative Guild of the Philippines

Essential source

FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER HAS HAD a most colorful but nonetheless consistent practice of upholding the best tradition of journalism in mass media's oldest and most exacting form. It is to the credit of its management and staff that in spite of the dominance of the broadcast sector in the people's media lifestyle and the new-media rage, Philippine Daily Inquirer has remained an essential source that people go to for insightful and distinctly telling reportage. No wonder that it is also among the most preferred media partners of the advertising industry. For 22 years, we at the Ad-Board have had the privilege of the consistent support of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in our mission of industry self-regulation. Truly you have been our tried and tested partner and we look forward to an even longer and stronger tie in the future as we both evolve and adapt to the ever changing environment. Happy Anniversary!

ANDRE KHAN, Adboard chair

That personal touch

THROUGHOUT THE PAST YEARS THAT I HAVE WORKED WITH THE Philippine Daily Inquirer in terms of advertising placements, rate negotiations, deadlines, and even industry concerns, my experience has always been pleasant. The INQUIRER management treats us with respect, utmost consideration, yet is very professional and business-like, without losing that personal touch. It has consistently been transparent and sincere in our transactions, the mark of a true business partner. Being tried is easy. Being tested is tough. And no one can argue about best results. In behalf of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the management and staff of Philippine Daily Inquirer on its 22nd anniversary. Happy holidays!

RAUL S. ALVAREZ, president, Pana

Always there to help

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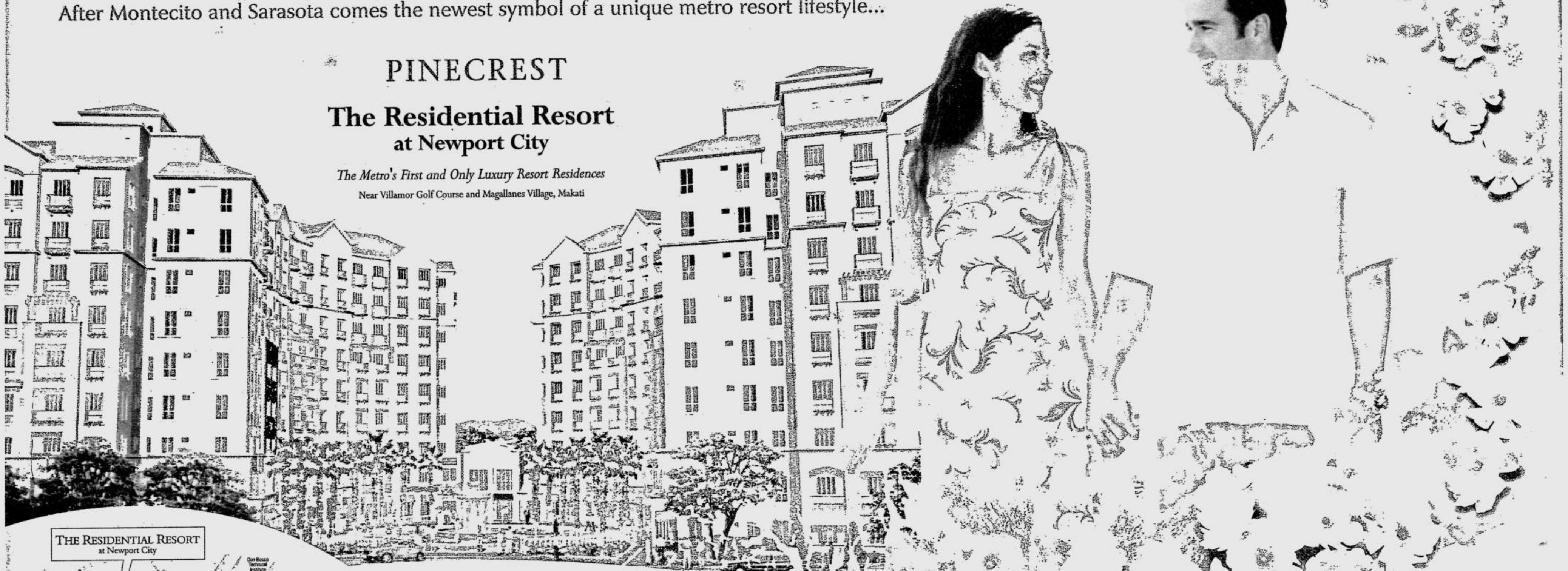

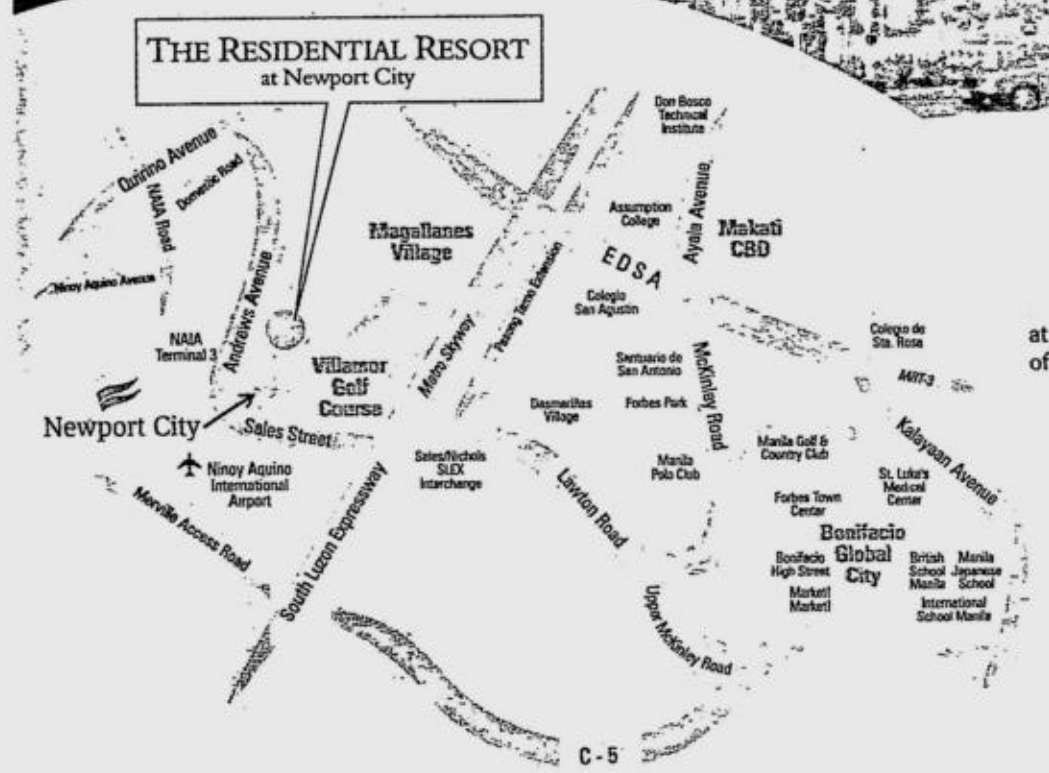

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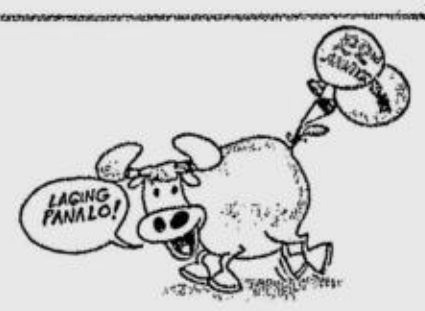


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

Kids discover joy of reading

PARENTING EXPERT Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan reads "Super Benj," a book she wrote about a superhero with a heart condition. RODEL ROTONI

By Minerva Generalao
Inquirer Research chief

GABRIEL 'GABGAB' GERaldo, 4, burst out laughing as he watched a young reader act out a story. Ranniel Lesigues, 10, had a wide grin and gave a thumbs-up sign when asked how his first INQUIRER Read-Along session went. "It was fun and good," he said.

Yra Refran, 7, shyly smiled and said she also enjoyed her first and succeeding Read-Along sessions—more than 10 at last count—she had attended, adding that she had learned useful reading tips.

Gabgab, Ranniel and Yra were among the over 1,150 children who attended the first 19 sessions of INQUIRER Read-Along.

Launched last May 5, the Read-Along gathers children aged seven to 13 for a story-reading session with celebrities and famous role models for the youth. The first two celebrity readers were singer-actress Manilyn Reynes and 16-year-old summa cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines(Diliman) Mikaela "Mikki" Irene Fudolig.

The aim of the project is to teach children to develop a love for reading.

While it is said that reading well is at the heart of all learning (and that children who can't read well, can't learn), teaching children to read—but making it their own choice—is as important as teaching reading skills.

This was shown in an Ateneo de Manila University team survey among top students of several public and private schools.

KIDS/ N2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tried & True @ 22

TV HOST and actress Donita Rose RODEL ROTONI

TV ACTOR Dingdong Dantes RODEL ROTONI

BINIBINING PILIPINAS-UNIVERSE and law student Anna Theresa Licaros ROMY HOMILLADA

TELVISION BROADCASTER Christine Bersola-Babao

Kids discover joy ...

From page N1

The survey showed that reading for pleasure is one habit they had all developed.

But with the advent of television, computers and other multimedia, books began to compete with gadgets such as Xbox, PS2, PSP, Gameboy and 24-hour cartoon channels such as Disney, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, Hero; and Friendster, YouTube and other Net pages.

Role models reading

Reading books then took a back seat. For most kids, it has become a chore to be done only when assigned as homework or is needed to pass an examination. One read only when he is told to do so.

Ranniel and his cousin Nathan were brought to the INQUIRER Read-Along session last June by their aunt, Queenie Banta, who thought it was a good way to encourage children who would rather log on to the Internet to read instead.

"For kids who are difficult to persuade, seeing their role models read might just do the trick," she said.

Using role models is a key concept underlying the Read-Along. This simply means inviting celebrities and young role models to read before the children.

A valuable addition by the INQUIRER editor in chief, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, this was not in the plan when it was originally called Saturday Reading Sessions at the Inquirer Library. The proposed program had only three main parts: storytelling with an Alitaptap storyteller, the read-along with Junior Inquirer staffers and the Questions and Answers portion after the two readings.

But Magsanoc said there was a need to introduce the celebrities and youth role models component to attract a bigger following. She also changed the program's name to INQUIRER Read-Along.

Celebrities' influence

The changes have made a difference.

Ranniel's mother, Rossane, who grew up treating her books as friends, encourages her two children and two nephews to read. At home, she and her husband conduct their own storytelling sessions with the children. She also leaves books in the living room and almost everywhere in the house to give her kids 24/7 access to them. Furthermore, she brings kids to other storytelling sessions and to libraries. But in all these activities, she still had to tell her kids to read.

She admitted the "big edge" celebrities have in terms of influence. She recalled that when Ranniel knew Olsen Racela would be the celebrity reader, he told her: "Mommy, let's go. We have to go."

SAN MIGUEL BEER hoop star Olsen Racela ROGER CARPIO

Racela is Ranniel's favorite basketball player and Ranniel was happy to see him in person. He was enthralled, "He is not only a good basketball player, he is also a good reader," the boy told his mother.

Ranniel, a student at Don Bosco Makati, was also impressed with young star Sam Concepcion, specially with his "accent." He said he learned from Sam ways on how to read well, like how to read a sentence and how to read "*tuloy-tuloy*" (nonstop).

He said that he tried to read "*na walang putol-putol*" (without stopping) like Sam, but admitted he had to pause sometimes to look up words he could not understand.

Reading tips

Most memorable for Yra, a student of Batangas State University, were the reading tips given by writer Ruth Navarra during the Read-Along portion with Junior Inquirer and the tips printed in the Guyito bookmark given to the Read-Along participants.

She said the tip on the need to sit up straight helped her to read more. (The complete tip states: Find a position you're most comfortable in. Try sitting up straight and holding the book with both hands.)

Her mother Girlie, one of the INQUIRER librarians, noticed the big difference. Before, Yra would find it difficult to finish reading a book. Now, she can do it in one sitting.

She also noted that Yra has began searching for books given to her as gifts but remained unread. Yra now wants to read these books.

But beyond reading, Yra has a new interest: to be a storyteller.

She said that she is just waiting for the perfect time to tell her English teacher that she would volunteer to read a book for their Christmas party.

On her own, she has been practicing to read "David and Goliath" before her classmates. And like the young storytelling champions from the Pasig City public schools, she begins her reading with, "Alam nyo, mga bata ... ?" (Did you know kids ...?)

Young storytelling champs

The original concept involved the inclusion of adult celebrities. But the enthusiastic response of the children to Mikki and Sam and feedback from participants themselves, suggesting more young readers, led to the decision to have both a young and adult celebrity readers in one Read-Along session.

Apart from Mikki and Sam, the young readers included actress Cheska Ortega, TV show host and Bright Child Junior Ambassador of Goodwill for the Council for the Welfare of Children Bernard Joecel "Tolits" Forbes; the reigning Little Earth Angel of 2007 Denise Mikaela Abuan, 11-year-old child poet Rayne Aguilar who read poems she herself wrote, child author Isabella Clarisse Juria who read her book "You're a Star" with singer-actress Karylle and three division winners from a storytelling contest in Pasig, "Pagkukuwento sa Filipino," 7-year-old Mar Deo Cxelci Zuñiga, 7-year-old Ira Rose Dacatimban and 12-year-old Bernadine L. Bacolod.

US AMBASSADOR to the Philippines Kristie Kenney VINCENT CABREZA

FORMER SENATORIAL CANDIDATE and teacher Sonia Roco ROMY HOMILLADA

MIKAELA IRENE FUDOLIG, the first 16-year-old summa cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman RODEL ROTONI

The three acted out the stories they read—and dressed the part. Deo came as a rooster. Bacolod wore a bus driver's outfit, complete with a towel around her neck, holding bus tickets. She interacted with the audience, pretending they were riding a bus and even asked them: "Where do you want to get off?"

Like experienced Alitaptap reader Rich Rodriguez, they gave a lively and comic rendition of the stories they read, drawing laughs and giggles from listeners like Gabgab while they learned the lessons from the stories they read.

Wacky, interactive

Being wacky and interactive is a way to keep the young audience interested, Rodriguez said.

And it did arouse the interest of Gabgab, son of INQUIRER Digital Pre-Press Unit section head Adelle Geraldo. Since the first Read-Along which was mostly attended by children of INQUIRER employees, Gabgab has attended every session.

Now, he often surprises his mother with the news: *Nanay*, I learned another big word today.

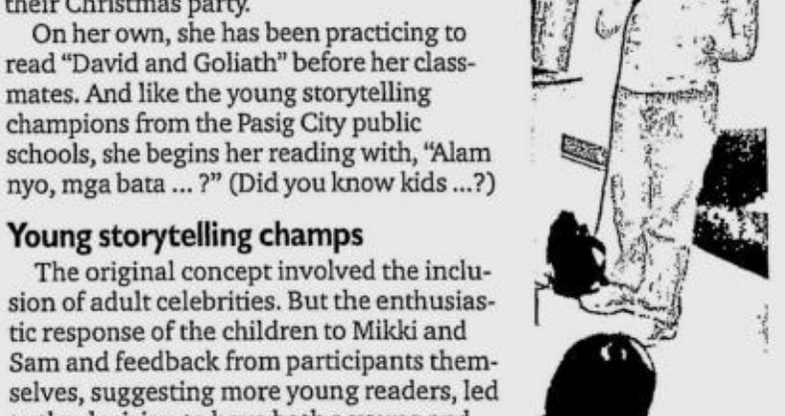
In all, the technique is interactive, fun, relaxed and conversational storytelling. To help provide the atmosphere, the venue—where most of the INQUIRER corporate meetings are held—is transformed into a bright and colorful "library" complete with rubber mats, balloons, pictures and *banderitas* (bunting).

This, in addition to the model concept, is what the Read-Along is all about.

Overwhelming response

The combination, so far, has worked well. So well, in fact, that the sessions have

KIDS/P3



YOUNG star Sam Concepcion RODEL ROTONI

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Testimonial of Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia (ret.)
after taking Boston C within one hour

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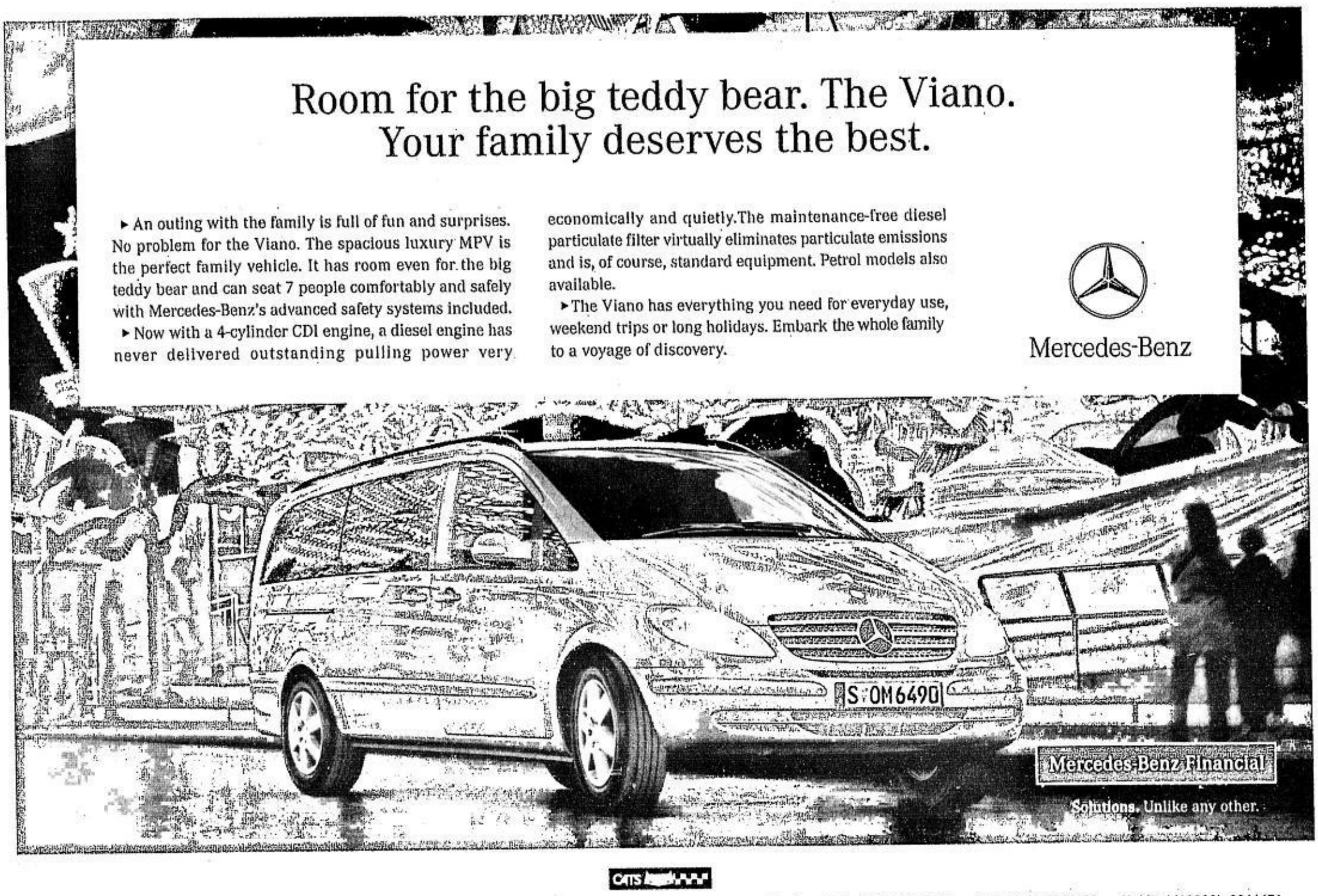

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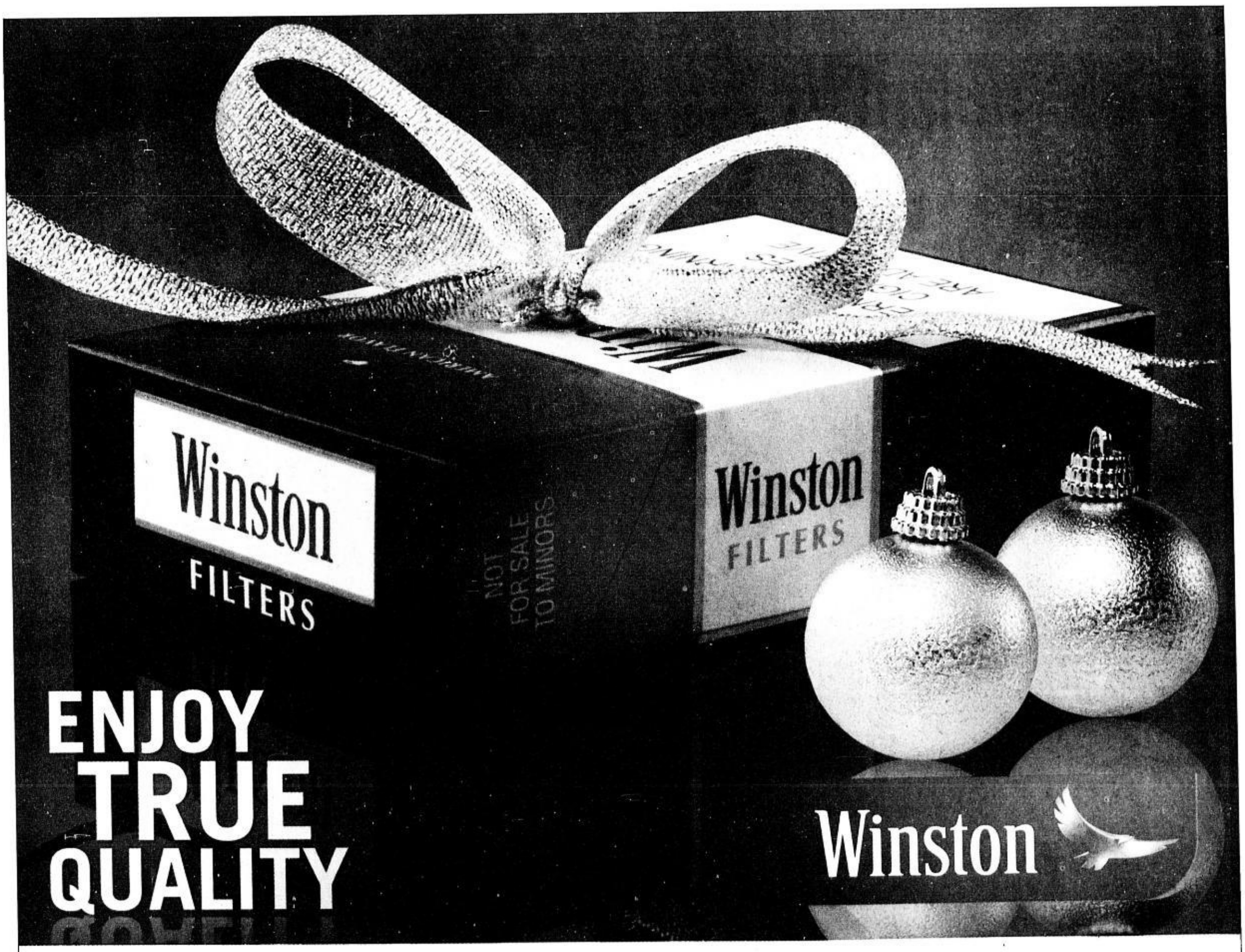

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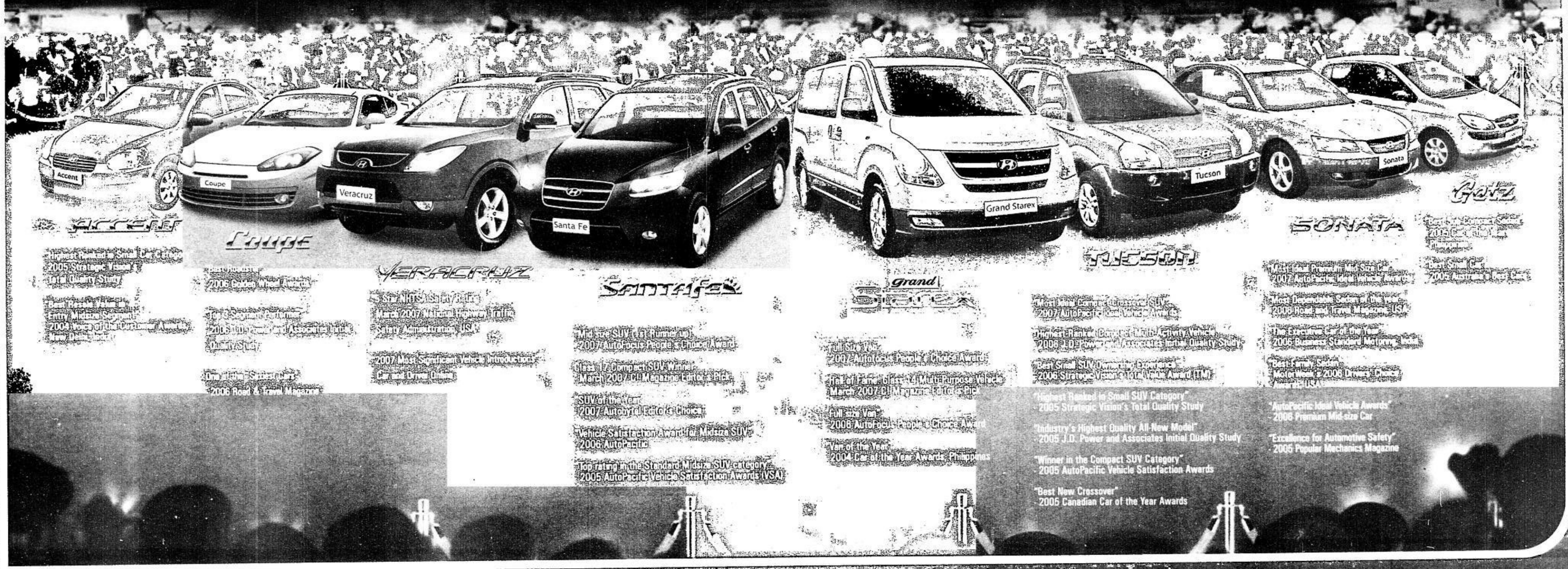

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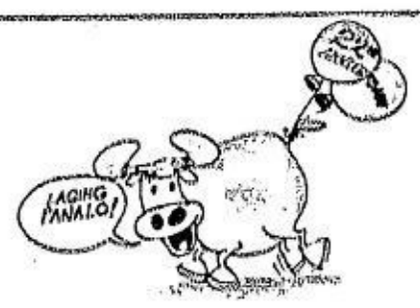

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2007

A day in life of the Day Desk may be your last

By Ruben Alabastro
Chief, News Day Desk

IF YOU WANT TO LOSE FIVE YEARS OF your life, get assigned to the Day Desk. That, in so many words, was the remark I heard when I joined the INQUIRER three or so years ago.

Of course, I ended up at the Day Desk. I have stayed there since.

What is it about the Day Desk that prompted that remark—that makes working in that corner of the INQUIRER newsroom seem more fatal than smoking two packs a day?

From vision to memo

The INQUIRER Day Desk was a brainchild of then city editor Nilo Paurom, now chief of Page-One Operations. Nilo was observing news operations in Sweden in 2000 when—so the story goes—he was struck by a vision.

Back in Manila, he turned his vision into a memo. The memo was titled Project Mercury to underline the need for speed in news operations. It sought to address a perennial problem in every newspaper: Beating deadlines.

A central part of Project Mercury called for setting up a section in the newsroom that would take charge of the day-to-day news coverage, speed up the flow of stories from the field to the desk, and ensure a comprehensive coverage of the day's events.

Thus, was the Day Desk born. It is now 7 years old.

A day or two after its launch, under the direction of now-associate editor Abel Ulanday and fellow editor Stella Gonzales (who has since left to get a life), the garbage mountain at Payatas collapsed. More than 100 people were killed.

"We were immediately tested," Abel was to say later on, recalling how he scrambled to deploy reporters to the site.

The Day Desk came through. It has been around since. When Abel moved up, command passed on to editor Gerry Lirio, backed by Cookie Micaller.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Now, a three-member team that includes editor Juliet Labog-Javellana, Reporter 4 Volt Contreras and myself, is running the show.

Round-the-clock alert

Work at the Day Desk has evolved over the years but its central role remains—planning and directing news coverage. Its work begins in the morning with a meeting with other section editors, where suggestions on what events to cover or give priority to are discussed, debated and decided upon.

"It means you have to be alert for news at all times, even while you are at home," a veteran editor says. "It's a 24-hour job."

That means listening to news broadcasts on radio or television until the wee hours of morning so that you have an idea of what news to chase on waking up.

Waking hours

And it means waking up earlier than the usual waking hours of other editors so that early each morning you can check what rival newspapers are reporting and—more important—anticipate what is likely to happen during the day.

It means coordinating with reporters assigned to the national and Metro Manila beats and, when the news has a broad, national reach, with the provincial bureaus. International news, too, of course, especially those that impact on the Philippines.

It also means getting in touch with photographers—and, when occasions dictate, with the more senior editors for suggestions on how best things can be done.

And it means pressing (sometimes begging) reporters to file their stories early, if not at least on time.

At worst, it means dealing, with

A DAY/ O4

Heaven can wait, but not...

By Miko Morelos
Editorial assistant

HOW DEMANDING IS THE work at the Day Desk?

A text message from my boss, daydesk chief Ruben Alabastro, perhaps explains it all.

"Heaven can wait, but not the Day Desk."

He sent me this message one Saturday noon after the last game of the annual bowling tournament at SM Megamall a couple of months ago.

The tournament is one of the most hyped events at the INQUIRER, and, the players, I learned, take this one seriously.

After the games, our team usually goes out to lunch, which becomes the venue for the day's post-mortem.

Post-game lunches last about an hour and a half. After lunch, every player hitches a ride with those who have to go back to the office.

After reading the message from my boss, I picked up my bags and hurriedly left the restaurant.

* * *

The first thing bosses and employees here tell a new hire is to bring your appetite to work.

With the tension one goes

HEAVEN/ O4

From the mundane to the sublime, from fire and rain, a page is built around an image

That certain look: It's not just a wallpaper, it's the Big Picture

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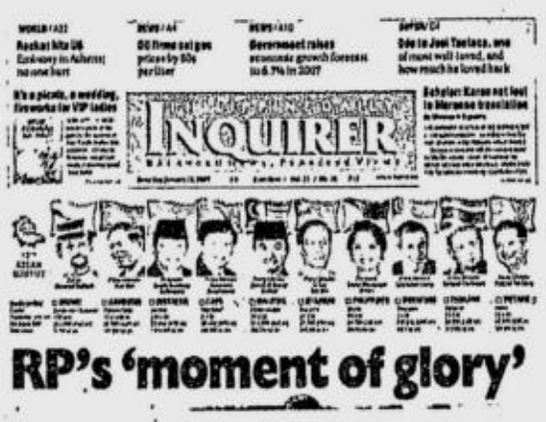

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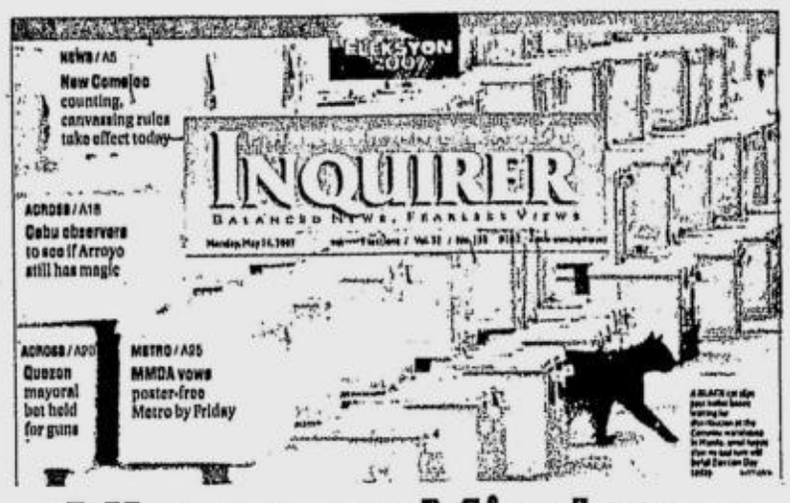

All eyes on Mindanao

TU, GO each claims 7 of its bets will win

GMA duplicating Marcos poll machine

POLL PREPARATIONS
Comelec, monitors, observers: Die is cast

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Why I'm voting for Kapatiran

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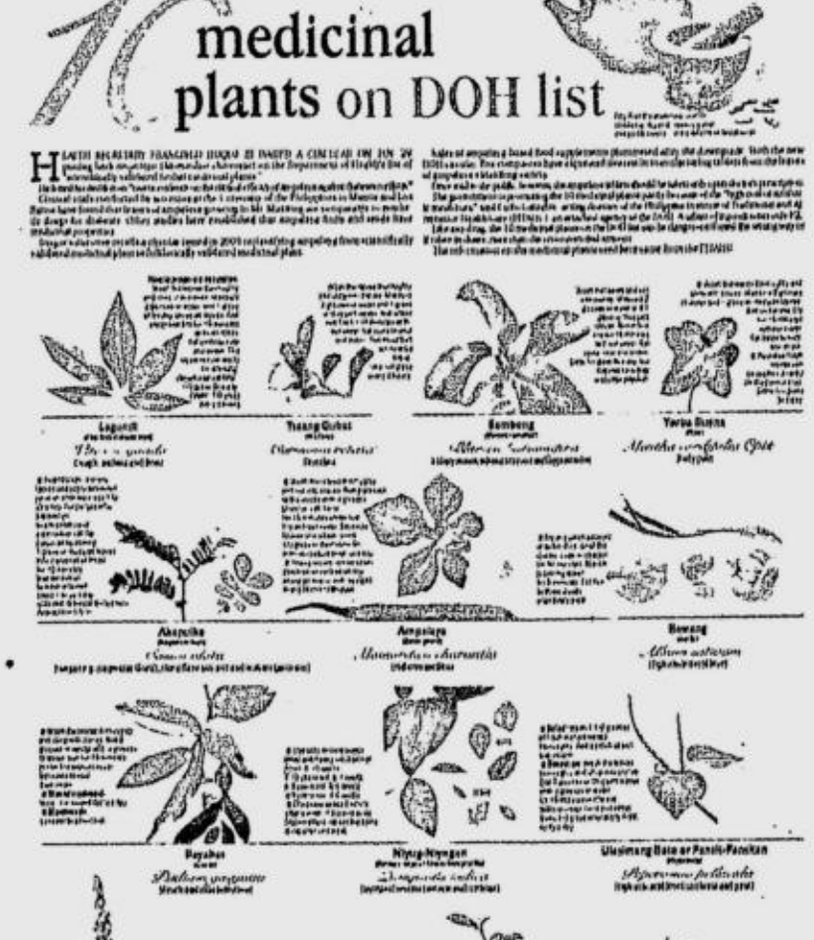


70 medicinal plants on DOH list

At times, a page is built around a headline

GMA: Don't count me out
But won't block anyone's 2010 presidential ambition JDV elected

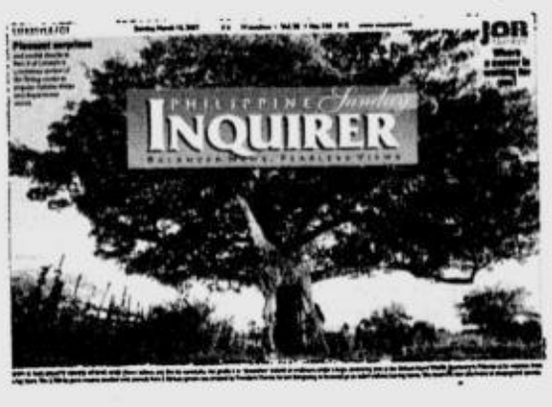
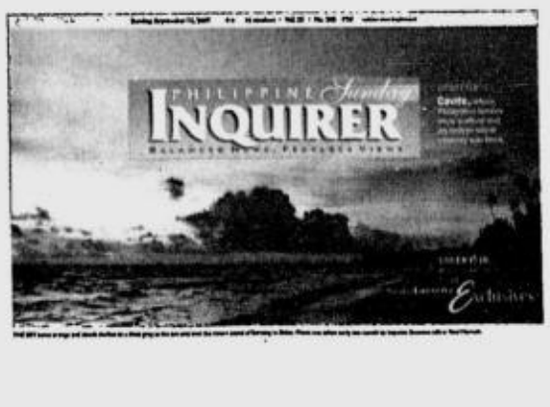
GUILTY OF PLUNDER
Court noted it's first plunder case vs highest official of the land

GMA PARDONS ERAP
Cory hopes convicted leader has learned his lesson PVR warns Gloria: Erap could bring you down

P3-M bounty on bomber
Probers have no suspects yet, find traces of explosives
Whodunit: 'Terror group' claims blast
Back to normal at the malls the morning after

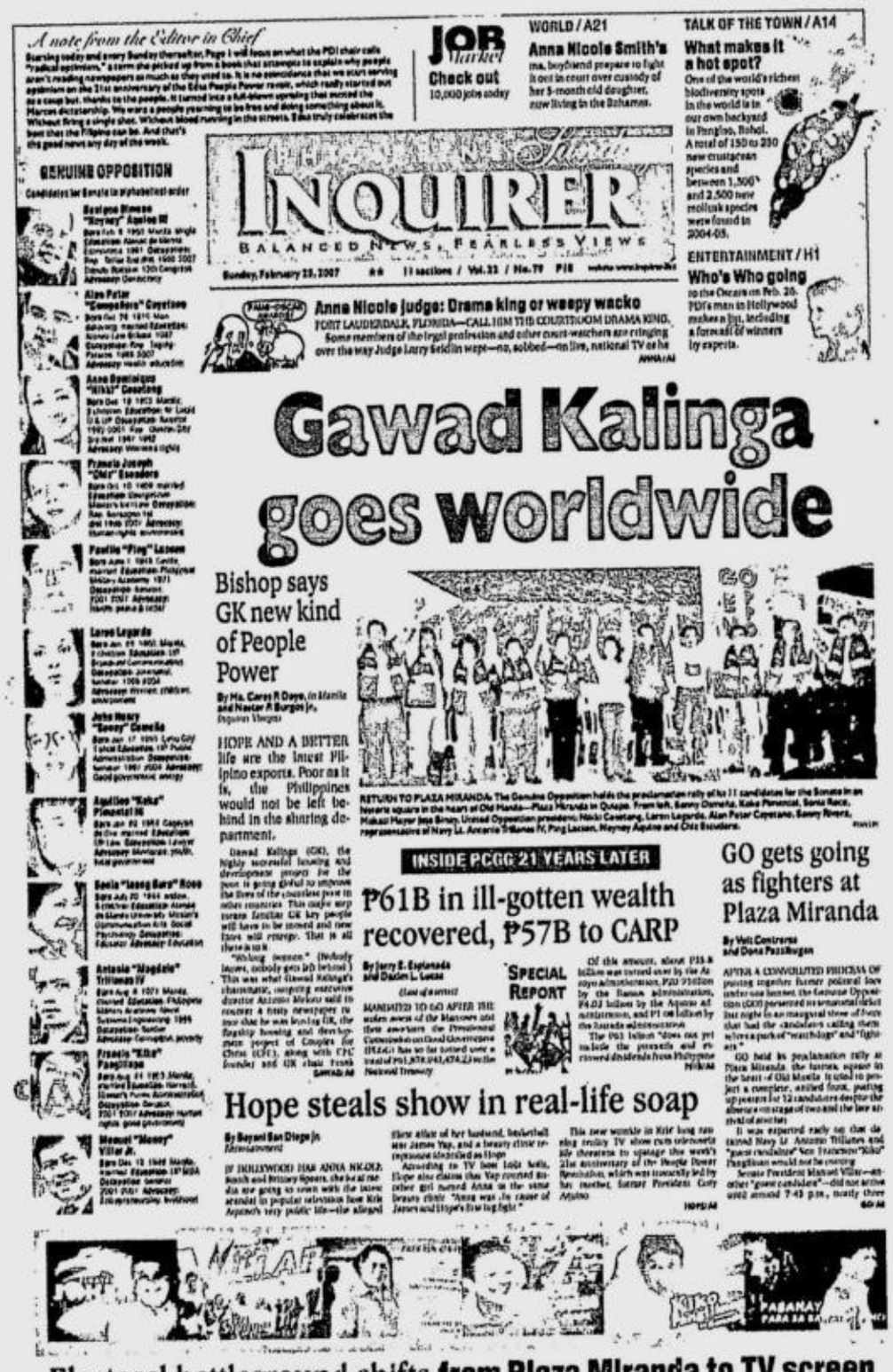
BATASAN BOMBED

Trillanes revolt crushed
Stocks, peso go on roller coaster ride
PNP says 101 arrested inside Peninsula
Gov't imposes curfew in Metro Manila

'Radical optimism': Not only on Sundays

Above are samples of Sundays' "Big Picture" layout and below, tastings from a buffet of good news. What fun and so fulfilling it has been for us to look out for survival-against-all-odds stories, everyday hero types, aspirational and inspirational models, for the men and women who make it possible for us to hope again and keep the faith and such other news that give us that very Sunday feeling.

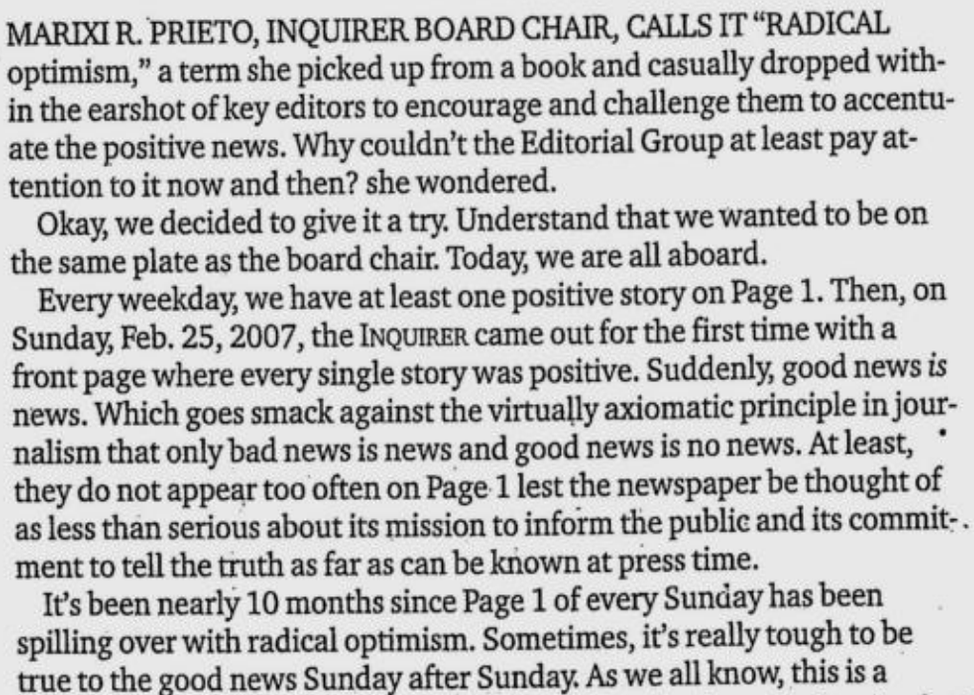


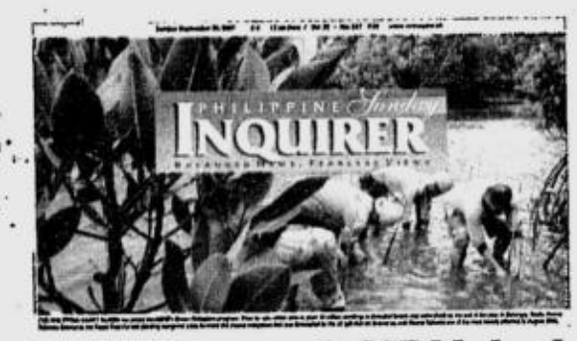
MARIXI R. PRIETO, INQUIRER BOARD CHAIR, CALLS IT "RADICAL optimism," a term she picked up from a book and casually dropped within the earshot of key editors to encourage and challenge them to accentuate the positive news. Why couldn't the Editorial Group at least pay attention to it now and then? she wondered.

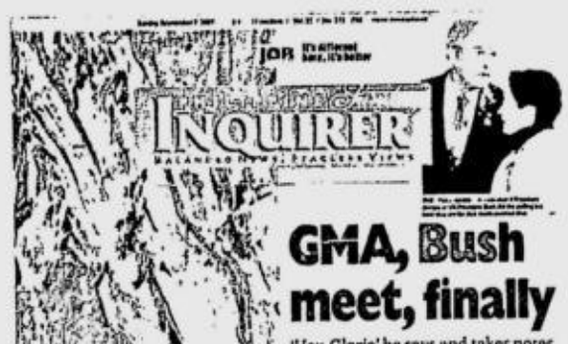
Okay, we decided to give it a try. Understand that we wanted to be on the same plate as the board chair. Today, we are all aboard.

Every weekday, we have at least one positive story on Page 1. Then, on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007, the INQUIRER came out for the first time with a front page where every single story was positive. Suddenly, good news *is* news. Which goes smack against the virtually axiomatic principle in journalism that only bad news is news and good news is no news. At least, they do not appear too often on Page 1 lest the newspaper be thought of as less than serious about its mission to inform the public and its commitment to tell the truth as far as can be known at press time.

It's been nearly 10 months since Page 1 of every Sunday has been spilling over with radical optimism. Sometimes, it's really tough to be true to the good news Sunday after Sunday. As we all know, this is a country of endless strifes and scandals. But it can be done. And we're doing it. All's right with the cradle of noble heroes.







CAYETANO Paderanga Jr. as guest critic at the PDI Day Desk meeting, Nov 9, 2006.

A day in life of the Day Desk ...

From page 01

care, with the 25 or so egos on your reportorial staff.

Panic time

Crunch time comes when major news breaks. Reporters are pulled out from wherever they are and sent to the scene so that all aspects of the event are fully covered.

When Antonio Trillanes IV began his march in the rain, four INQUIRER reporters and five photographers rushed to the scene to produce what an editor later remarked was the most thorough coverage of the event, compared with other newspapers.

But it was, in a sense, still a puny effort. You are reminded of how, in 2001, after two hijacked planes struck the Twin Towers in New York, a major American newspaper, with a policy of deploying overwhelming force during big events, depended on more than 300 reporters and 50 photographers to report the historic event.

Screams in the night

It is the kind of job that literally gives you nightmares. Nights aren't rare when the thought that you are about to miss the deadline haunts your dreams and you end up screaming for your mother (*Inay! Inay!*) in the middle of your sleep.

You used to keep a journal, marked *Days*, filled with jottings of what happened to you during the day. You have discarded that journal and you are now keeping a new one. It is marked *Tribulations*.

But there are moments of satisfaction—as when a young reporter on the staff filed a powerful story about how Typhoon "Reming" ravaged Albay. It was laced with scenes of hungry people wading in the flood and fighting off a temptation to eat an apple bobbing in the muddy water, and of employees at a Legazpi bank hanging out P500 bills to dry on a clothesline.

A story by another young reporter about how Air Force pilots braved risks when they flew on a Nomad that "dipped and swayed" amid heavy air turbulence just so they could seed the clouds when water levels were dangerously low also stirred a feeling of pride.

Price of it all

Still, heartbreaks persist. Stories still arrive with the painful slowness of water dripping from a tap. Deadlines, of course, are often still not met.

It makes you wonder what has happened to Mercury.

No, working at the Day Desk won't cost you five years of your life. It can shorten it by ten.

Heaven ...

From page 01

through especially during crunch time, most of us, if not all, indulge in small, quick snacks that take the edge off the stress. A pack of peanuts, fish crackers or "*chichirya*" nurture the soul of the exhausted employee. (I think most of us are stress eaters)

Food is our respite and we eat whenever.

It helps that Management is very generous when it comes to food funding.

Almost every day, varieties of food are brought to the newsroom from well wishers and from the bosses on the 2nd floor huddled in a meeting.

* * *

When September and October roll in, we begin taking note of what we eat.

In September, we watch what we eat because the annual physical checkup is just around the corner.

After a battery of tests and a 12-hour fast, we resume partaking of the endless feast.

In October, the results are handed out by the nurse. Like a professor handing out class cards to students, the poker-faced nurse takes care not to give away any hint of the results.

He would approach each of us and tell us, in a soft voice, about our uric acid and cholesterol levels, among other things.

Temptation

"Your cholesterol level is high," he tells an employee, suggesting that he better watch out or there's hell to pay.

Days after, we say no to pasta. We turn a blind eye to the passing "*turon*" girl and hold our breath when the guard brings in a "*bilao*" of pancit.

But the temptation continues. Swirls of cream and shavings of dark chocolate that adorn a Black Forest cake seem to tease those with high glucose levels to "come and take a bite."

Forget about the cholesterol, one quips as "*lechon*", *its skin roasted to a crisp, is brought to the editors' lounge for chopping.*

The loud thud of the cleaver hitting the countertop is music to our "hungry" ears. We tear at the sinful delight, brought to the office for the birthday celebration of an editor.

* * *

There are instances when a personality of the moment, whether in the spotlight for some blunder, political or economic, or for a moment of glory, pays a visit to the INQUIRER. On most of these visits, the guests bring the meals.

Fancy delivery

And when men in black pants and white shirts occasionally adorned with black bow ties start to make their way up to the editorial offices on the third floor, we take a good look and wonder: "What catering service do these people come from?"

Their hair neatly combed and a cheerful demeanor on their faces, they go around the newsroom, politely offering refills or handing out plates and utensils.

Chaffing dishes filled with meat, fish, pasta or rice—and an array of desserts—would be brought to the lounge while we discreetly queue up when the signal is given to eat.

At the end of a long day, the caterer's staff packs up and starts sorting out the plates, utensils and glasses.

There's food left over, and maybe a wine bottle or two for one last toast, but no problem.

Doggie bags can be very difficult to resist.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

Business Readership Council: Listening, learning

By Raul O. Marcelo
Business editor

THE CONCEPT OF A READERship council in a newspaper was a novel idea borrowed from the experience of a successful Mexican newspaper. The rationale was simple: interacting directly with readers helps a newspaper grow. For who else would know what a reader wants to see and read than the reader himself?

Makes good sense. So when the INQUIRER management asked if the Business Section would want to pilot-test this concept, it was so easy to say "yes."

The first meeting of the Readership Council was an eye-opener as to what this exercise could do to help improve the Business Section—in terms of content and appearance. Throughout the 10 months that it met, innovations like an expanded stock market table and explanatory graphics were instituted, and a refocusing of coverage was made to put out stories and special reports that mattered to the readers of the Business Section.

The INQUIRER learned so much from this pioneering concept in Philippine media.

The council's meetings were more than just productive—they were a gold mine for story ideas and proposals, too much than the Business Section could really adequately handle. The short but engaging meetings have in fact produced a very long list of things to do to make the contents of the Business Section more relevant, and in putting depth to the stories it churned out every day.

But more than the story ideas and suggestions was one very important lesson: the INQUIRER owes it to its readers to ask them what they wanted to read and see in the newspaper. And come to think of it, there's no harm in asking them—face to face—through the Readership Council.

No matter how diverse their views were, they represented a cross section of the people who read the Business Section of the INQUIRER, and each view was treated with the same importance as the others.

The INQUIRER would like to thank the members of the Readership Council for sharing precious time, for their frankness in criticizing the paper, for their fresh ideas. The Business Section still has a long list of proposals from the Council that will keep it busy through the coming year. And it will do them, knowing fully well that those ideas will make the Business Section of the INQUIRER what the readers want it to be—their main source of relevant economic and business information.

Here's sharing what the members of the Readership Council have to say.

Guillermo D. Luchangco
Chair and CEO
ICCP Group of Companies:

When I was invited to join the first Readership Council of the INQUIRER, I was given to understand that this idea arose from a similar council that was formed by a Mexican newspaper that then rose to become the largest circulation daily in that country. I thought that it was a great idea because in this modern age, customer relations and service is what it's all about, or in this case, know what your reader wants and try to give it to

BUSINESS/ P2

Sports Readership Council

By Ted S. Melendres
Sports editor

THE METHODOLOGY IS STRAIGHTforward enough. It starts with something like this: Who do you ask for tips to make your section of the paper more accurate, informative and reader-friendly?

The answer is simpler still: the readers.

The premise is that readers know what's best for them, what they want to read, anyway.

You churn out a badly written or angled story and you get grazed by lightning, almost instantly, via e-mail sent by some incensed reader who left the breakfast table in a huff to give you a piece of his mind.

They keep quiet, however, when your report hits the nail on the head.

Readers' silence is golden?

We'd like to think of it as such, but it's never always the case. To be honest about it, readers' approval is almost non-existent. To find out, you really have to ask people point-blank what they think about what they read.

With this in mind, the Sports desk sprang into action and brainstormed. Who do we invite to tell us what they want to see in INQUIRER Sports?

Names of known INQUIRER Sports readers were mentioned and promptly jotted down.

There was a suggestion from INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez herself: Could we sound out ordinary readers as well?

Why not, really?

Special people

We made a list of 50 names that included people from the academe and the sports associations, sporting heroes of yesteryear, competition organizers, and yes, the special people who happen to check out the Sports section before the News front page.

That list was pruned down to 20 and then to a final 14. After three strategy sessions, we had a select group of men and women who would make up the maiden Readership Council for INQUIRER Sports.

Remember Vic Sison? Ricky Palou, Guy Concepcion and Sammy Estimo sound familiar to you?

The four gentlemen—all former national team players in football, basketball, swimming and chess, in that order—are part of our elite little circle of critics.

They join former collegiate cagebelle Marisun Uichico, former Pilipinas Shell executive Ed Mapa, lawyer Theodoro Te, motorsports executive Johnny Tan, foot race organizer Rudy Biscocho, Air Force Maj. Joe Eric R. Sibayan, port security manager Adrian M. Picar, young entrepreneur Francis De Leon Jr., businessman Arsenic Laurel and General Milling Corp. CEO Wilfred Steven Uytengsu.

Washing machine of ideas

As this goes to press, the Readership Council is already three sessions old.

The panel meetings have become a veritable washing machine of ideas, suggestions and critiques—the latter swallowed by us in the Sports desk without even a whimper.

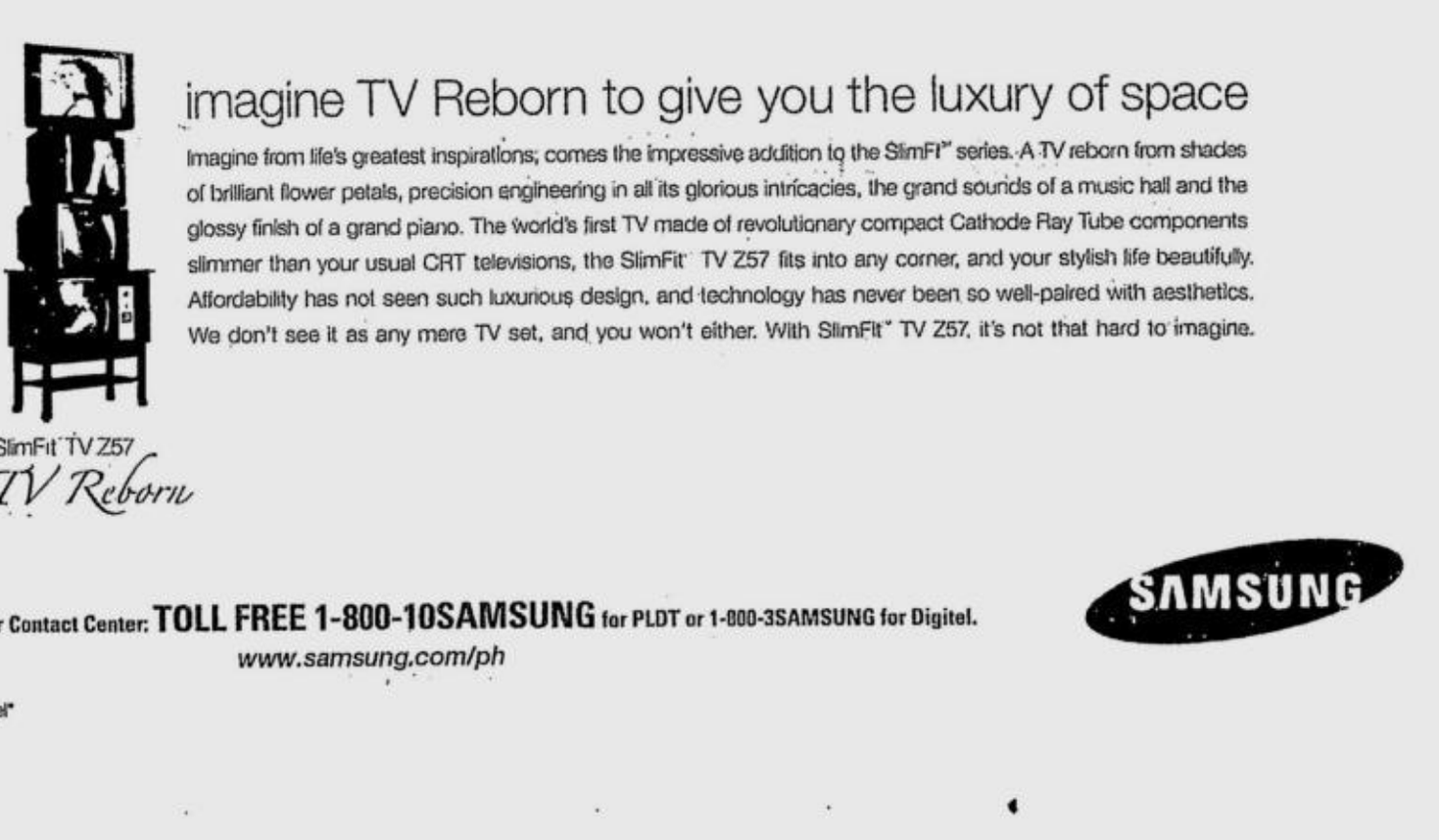
Goes one complaint: "Sports stories on Page 1 have become an afterthought. The large ketchup and hair-treatment advertisements today ate up a lot of editorial space."

How do you explain that oddity to the panel—while modestly sidestepping the fact that the INQUIRER draws more revenues than any other national-circulation morning daily hereabouts?

The good thing about this panel is it proposes solutions to dead-ends: "Why not ask for more pages from Ms Sandy?" "Why not move the adverts to other sections?"

Uichico, a true-blue Sports section critic, offered a profound tip: "Stories can be made more interesting. This way, advertise-

SPORTS/ P2



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Business Readership Council: Listening, learning

From page P1

him. I also admired the way in which the INQUIRER reacted to an intriguing concept and speedily implemented it.

I was pleased to see that the 12-person Council was composed of a cross section of people representing various sectors of the community. Thus, there were several businessmen, but there were also people from government, academe, SMEs, professional sector, etc. This made for a balanced viewpoint and comprehensive coverage. I also enjoyed interacting with the staff of the Business Section of the newspaper and developing a better understanding of the challenges and realities of the industry.

All in all, it was a pleasure to have served on the INQUIRER Readership Council.

Rene T. Domingo
Professor
Asian Institute of Management:

Attending a Readership Council meeting is always a refreshing experience after a stressful workday. Members easily forget that 60 minutes have gone by while sharing ideas with the best minds in the country and discussing business news and views readers would probably want to read in the next issue.

We always end up with an overload of good ideas, thanks to the meeting's unstructured, no holds-barred format. All this productive work happens while we munch the heavy snacks served. A few council members were former colleagues, most I've never met before, but from the very first meeting, we were freely exchanging ideas as if we were longtime friends.

In spite of the airing of different views and assortment of ideas, I realized that we never debated and disagreed about anything discussed. Definitely no grandstanding, notwithstanding the presence of media in our midst chairing and documenting the meeting. Every idea put forth was appreciated for its merit because the proponent is always assumed sincere. Often another member would build on it, rather than push his own idea and agenda.

INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and publisher Isagani Yambot preside over the readership council meeting for business. RYAN LIM

I think the readership council experience is a lesson on how a group of professionals can think of the public interest collectively with sincerity without the frills and fireworks we often observe and abhor in political debates.

Antonino L. Alindogan Jr.
Former member of the Monetary Board,
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

My experience has always been informative, enriching and at times engaging. The cross section of ideas and points of view as well as insights on a broadsheet's technical and practical constraints make one realize why print media has to be structured in a certain way.

All around and in the pursuit of better media quality, depth and scope, I certainly believe that the council's existence and contribution should be continued. We will all come out as better persons and better media products, hopefully.

Dr. Cayetano Paderanga
Former Economic Planning Secretary

It's been almost a year since I attended my first Readership Council meeting. For me, it has been richly rewarding. I'm just hoping the INQUIRER also got something out of the bargain.

The first benefit I got was some insight into the factors that a paper has to consider just to stay sustainable. Information on the economics of the newspaper business was very fascinating. The relationship between costs and the number of pages and the cost of distributing each editions was really enlightening, it should be obvious but the layman will ordinarily think about it.

Another benefit has been the constant interchange of ideas among the council members as we discussed what suggestions we would make to the editors and management. These meetings have been really exciting.

Still another benefit has been meeting the editors and senior writers and learning some of the considerations that go into choosing the articles and the coverage of the paper. It has been stimulating and enjoyable. All around a very useful experience.

Francis L. Chua
President
Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry:

Through the INQUIRER Readership Council, I experienced the economics of running a newspaper. Newspapers subsidize every single copy of newsprint sold. Thus, I have witnessed the art of balancing the ads and the news content. The paper is not at liberty of publicizing all news as requested, instead it has to face the reality of economics.

I have to thank the editors. They hear out all our comments and try to improve the paper for the satisfaction of the readers.

I, for one, am very thankful to the management of INQUIRER for I have learned and benefited most with my participation in the Readership Council.

FORMER Monetary Board member Antonino Alindogan Jr. says he appreciates the cross section of ideas, points of view and insights in the INQUIRER's Business Section. RYAN LIM

Ma. Teresa Habitan
Director
Fiscal Policy and Planning Office
Department of Finance

- Freewheeling discussions
- Non-judgmental colleagues
- A mine of new information
- Satisfies the hidden journalist in me
- Pride in seeing proposals come to life in print

My Readership Council experience has been a uniquely liberating experience. More than the usual sumptuous merienda, the quality of conversation and exchange of ideas during the strictly one-hour meetings leaves me fulfilled and satiated.

The variety of interests and expertise among the members of the Readership Council creates a vibrant environment for discussions.

Thank you for inviting me to be part of this.

Happy David
Entrepreneur:

I'd like to thank the INQUIRER for inviting me to be part of the Business Readership Council.

It's an empowering experience just to be able to be in the company of highly respected figures from the country's business and government sectors just sharing ideas and opinions. It was an eye-opener. Discussing issues and gaining different perspectives on business and understanding its relevance to the youth, or as an employee, entrepreneur, housewife or OFW.

This unique opportunity allowed me to voice out what I think concerns the youth. It also encouraged me to ask more, to know beyond the information that's being fed to us today. Today's generation wants to be more savvy on issues like personal finance management, investing, stocks, marketing and most especially on entrepreneurship.

With INQUIRER's recognition of the significant impact we play in our country's economy, I look forward to more informative pages, fresh insights that we can always rely on to keep us informed as empowered global citizens.

Federico K. Maramba
Chair of the Business Education Committee
Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines:

The Readership Council was a good idea to bring out suggestions both interesting and beneficial for readers of any paper's Business Section: corporate officers, proprietors, consultants, academicians, government officials, retirees, investors, etc.

As the members of the Council come from different business sectors, I felt all of us contributed to make the Business page more responsive to INQUIRER readers. At the same time, I certainly benefited from the inputs of the other members of the Council and the INQUIRER officials.

Thank you, Mrs. Romualdez, for inviting me to this Council.

DEPARTMENT of Finance director Teresa Habitan (center) says she enjoys sharing ideas with the INQUIRER Business Section staff. At left is former Monetary Board member Antonino Alindogan. RYAN LIM

Sports Readership Council

From page P1

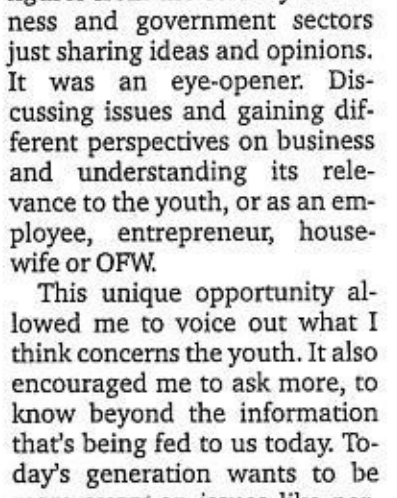
INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez explains the rationale behind the launching of the Sports Readership Council. EUGENE ARANETA

ments don't drown out the stories."

Suggestions on operational matters we refer to our facilitators like INQUIRER Ombudsman Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, corporate affairs head Connie Kalagayan, research chief Minerva Generalao and AVP for circulation Simon Yap.

An observation offered by Sison, the astute former Mr. Football awardee who said he missed the "color" of sports copies of the '60s and '70s, made this reporter and assistant Sports editor Francis Ochoa almost fall off their chairs:

"Nowadays, I see a lot of press releases stealing space in the Sports pages. Why has this happened? In the days of Ricky Llanos, Teddy Benigno and Tony Siddayao, readers absorbed the color of the matches. You felt like you were there in the ballgames. Could we bring it back? Could we improve the skills of sports writers?"



JOHNNY Tan, organizer of motorsports events in the country, stresses a point during the Sports Readership Council meeting. EUGENE ARANETA

Food for thought

Another food for thought from Estimo, a lawyer who is also the executive director of the national chess federation: "Sports pages, not just in the INQUIRER, devote more space for basketball. I am sure, the majority of sports enthusiasts follow sports other than basketball."

Mapa, a former corporate communications expert, adds: "You could set aside more space for special features on athletes in other sports and their particular skills."

Why not, really?

The Sports section accepts suggestions without reservations. There is no better way to improve our craft than to listen to the thoughts of people who we try to entertain and inspire each day.

Their comments pick our mind. The Sports desk may have ready answers to each and every concern, suggestion or critique but we prefer to listen—and to learn.

After all, the reader is our master.

Kids ...

From page N2

been moved to the second-floor multipurpose room which can accommodate up to 100 children. The original maximum target was only 25 participants.

Also shelved was the initial plan to get participants from the different public schools around Makati City. This was because response from the readers was so overwhelming that the sessions were soon attracting children from all over Metro Manila.

Joiners

Participants come from all walks of life—from the plush villages of Alabang and not-so-tony communities, from exclusive private schools and the public schools.

Apart from the participants, many sponsors and partners as well as volunteer celebrity readers also came.

So far, the INQUIRER Read-Along's roster of celebrity readers, apart from Reynes and Racela, included broadcaster Tintin Bersola-Babao, actress Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Anna Theresa Licaros, winners of the Miss Earth and Little Miss Earth beauty tilts, actor Dingdong Dantes, TV host and actress Donita Rose, singer-actress Karylle and former senatorial candidate and teacher Sonia Roco, Daniel Moore, energy and environment chief of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney.

Going places

Last Oct. 20, the INQUIRER Read-Along went mobile, launching its first session outside the INQUIRER office at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall's National Book Store branch and at the Ramon Magsaysay Learning Center in Ermita, Manila.

Two more sessions were conducted in partnership with the National Book Store Foundation Inc. (NBSF) at the NBS branches in Rockwell, Makati and along Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Across the nation

On Nov. 7, the first out-of-town Read-Along was held in SM Baguio City with no less than US Ambassador Kenney as guest reader.

After a briefing on the concepts and mechanics of the Read-Along on Nov. 26, Inquirer Northern Luzon bureau chief Rolly Fernandez said that next year, there would be a Northern Luzon Inquirer Read-Along in Baguio City. The sessions will be held at least once a month.

INQUIRER national editor Jun Bandayrel said that it would also be possible to launch the Southern Luzon Read-Along early next year.

Bea Andrea Torres, project coordinator of NBSF, told the INQUIRER that they are interested in hosting the Read-Along in NBS branches across the country.

Partners/sponsors

Those who have served as partners and sponsors include Hands-on Manila, Krispy Kreme, Edukasyon Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran, the Sustainable Energy Development Program of the USAID and the US Department of Energy, Soroptomist International-Eastwood City, Resources for the Blind Inc., Digna Aquino of the Library Hub of the Division of Pasig City and San Juan, McDonalds, Growers, Standard Chartered Bank, National Book Store Foundation and Scholastic Phils. Inc.

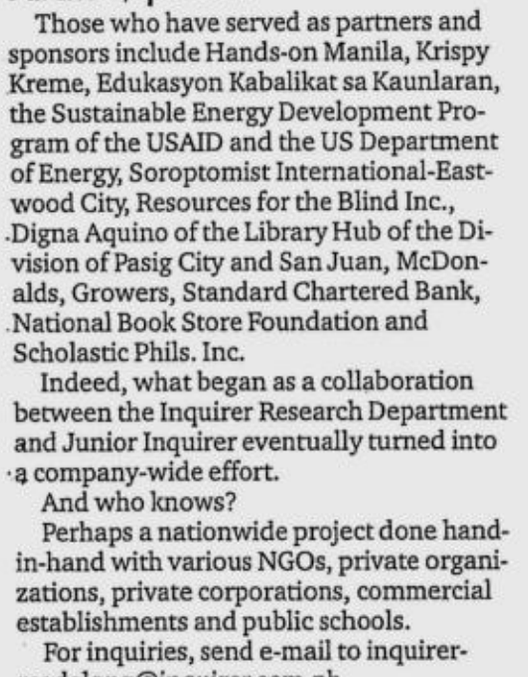
Indeed, what began as a collaboration between the Inquirer Research Department and Junior Inquirer eventually turned into a company-wide effort.

And who knows?

Perhaps a nationwide project done hand-in-hand with various NGOs, private organizations, private corporations, commercial establishments and public schools.

For inquiries, send e-mail to inquirer-readalong@inquirer.com.ph.

With reports from Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research



SINGER Karylle reads a story together with Estrella Clarisee Juria at the National Bookstore branch on Quezon Avenue.

CHILDREN listen intently to what movie and TV star Manilyn Reynes is reading to them. RODELROTONI

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Ray-Ban eyewear
camera case
1GB SD card
Premium items vary according to model purchased.

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•Canon Customer Care Centre 5F Marvin Plaza Building 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue Makati City (02) 884-9000
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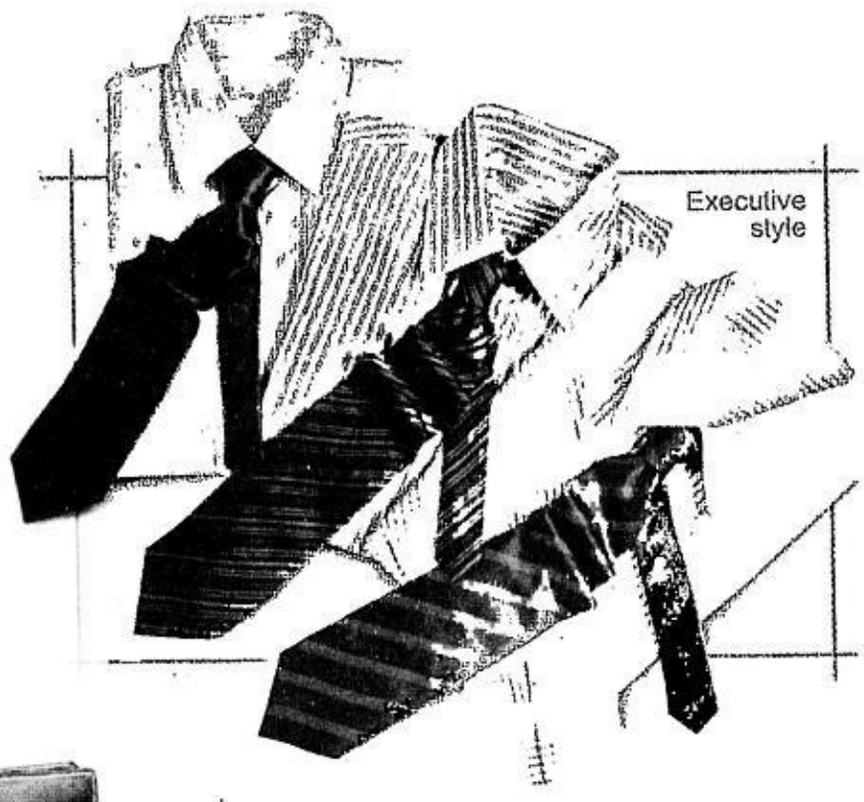
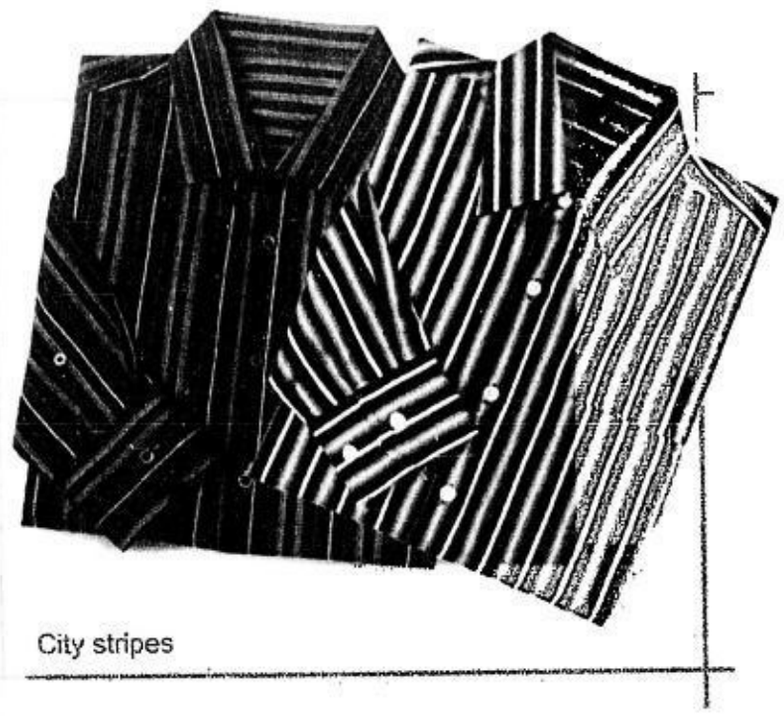

Executive style

Elegant finds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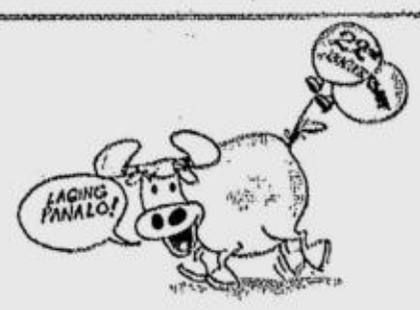
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2007

GOOD GOVERNANCE: Among Ed Panlilio, the priest-governor of Pampanga (extreme right), discusses the current state of Pampanga politics with retired Chief Justice Art Panganiban, former Ambassador Albert del Rosario, Professor Leni Panganiban, INQUIRER corporate relations manager Connie Kalagayan, Chamber of Mines president Philip Romualdez, Megaworld founder Andrew Tan and INQUIRER CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

Conversations with the wise

Inquirer Briefings convene opinion leaders

By John Nery
Columnist

THE CHINESE GOT IT RIGHT. "A SINgle conversation across the table with a wise person," a proverb says, "is worth a month's study of books."

Something like the same spirit led the INQUIRER to host learning conversations of its own, but with a crucial difference: The "wise persons" the proverb referred to would be found on both sides of the table.

Enter the INQUIRER Briefings.

In 2007, the newspaper began sponsoring organized conversations between its opinion columnists—by most accounts, the country's leading opinion writers—and influential decision-makers, including company CEOs (e.g., Jose Cuisia of Philamlife), diplomats (e.g., then-Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki of Japan), heads of educational institutions (e.g., Lydia Echauz of FEU) and leading professionals (e.g., architect Felino Palafox). Representatives from the Management Association of the Philippines, the Makati Business Club and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry have taken part, while select government officials—Mayor Jesse Robredo of Naga, Gov. Ed Panlilio of Pampanga—have also honored the INQUIRER's invitation.

3 briefings

In 2007, the INQUIRER hosted three Briefings. The first, on July 25 or only two days after President Arroyo's State of the Nation Address, analyzed the Sona from the perspectives of economics, law and journalism. The featured speakers were former economic planning secretary Cielito Habito, who writes No Free Lunch on Mondays; former UP College of Law Dean Raul Pangalangan, who writes Passion for Reason on Fridays; and veteran journalist Juan Mercado, who writes Viewpoint on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The second Briefing, on Oct. 10, zeroed in on the challenges facing Philippine education, with UP anthropologist Michael Tan, who writes Pinoy Kasi on Wednesdays and Fridays, leading the discussion. He used the concept of "ecotone" to argue for greater intervention (of both government and private initiatives) at the high school level. He was joined by INQUIRER News Service editor Miguel Suarez, who used his experience in education policy-making (he joined the Department of Education as part of the late Raul Roco's staff) to pinpoint problem areas in implementation.

Between hope and despair

Because the first two Briefings went into overtime, with spillover questions generated by the multiple-speaker format, the third Briefing, on Nov. 27, experimented with a simpler format: A single speaker. UP sociologist, broadcast journalist and longtime columnist Randy David (he writes Public Lives on Saturdays) conducted the experiment, using the occasion (the theme was "Between hope and despair: The Philippines in transition") to draw the audience's attention to the role of "OFWs, malls and cell phones" as "the sources of the modern impulse."

Off the record

As thought-provoking as the speakers' presentations were, some of the comments from the audience were even more provocative. But that's about all I can or am allowed to say. The conversations began under INQUIRER Briefings operate under a cardinal rule: Unless expressly excepted, everything is off the record. This self-imposed limitation can be a source of deep frustration for the journalists present (other INQUIRER columnists, too, have joined the forums), but the upside is considerable: No-holds-barred revelations, that help editors and columnists reach a better understanding of the national situation.

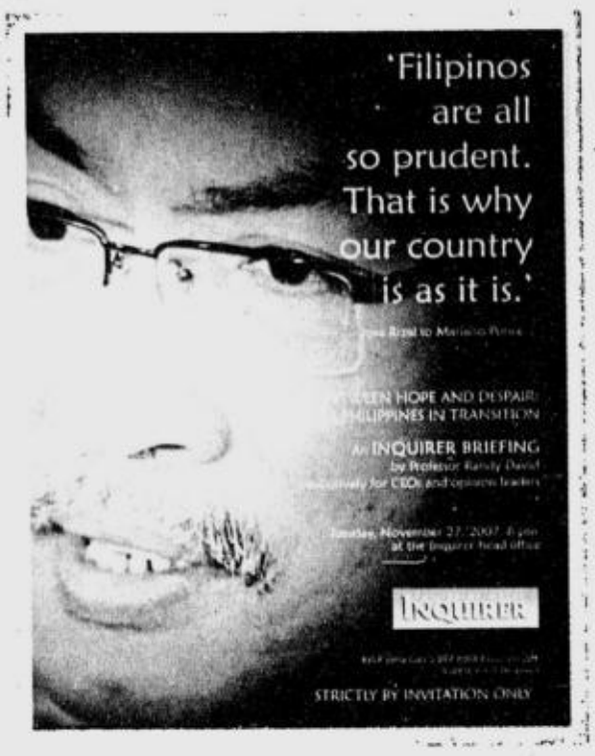
The Briefings, which benefit from the close attention of INQUIRER CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Opinion editor Jorge Aruta and corporate relations manager Connie Kalagayan, are meant to aid understanding, with the wisdom gained from "a month's study of books" and immersion in a given issue.

Harvest will come

They only mean to sow the seeds of lasting change; the harvest comes much later. But here's a promise of a fruitful reaping: The second INQUIRER Briefing, which gave participants a better idea of the enormity of the education problem, led to the management decision to launch a regular education section early next year. The conversation continues.

John Nery writes Newsstand on Tuesdays

The off the record sessions sow seeds of lasting change that promise a fruitful reaping



ROCK-STAR TREATMENT. A copy of the invitation to the third Briefing, featuring columnist Randy David in extreme close-up

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our Savior,
we also welcome
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This holiday season, selected Metrobank branches will be open to serve you every Saturday of December and on Dec. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Jan. 5.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tried & True @ 22

MOVERS AND SHAKERS. SGV founder Washington Sycip with INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto. Below, an expansive Raul Pangalangan, columnist and ex-dean of the UP College of Law.

RODEL ROTONI

FORMER Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. and retired Supreme Court Chief Justice and columnist Artemio Panganiban.

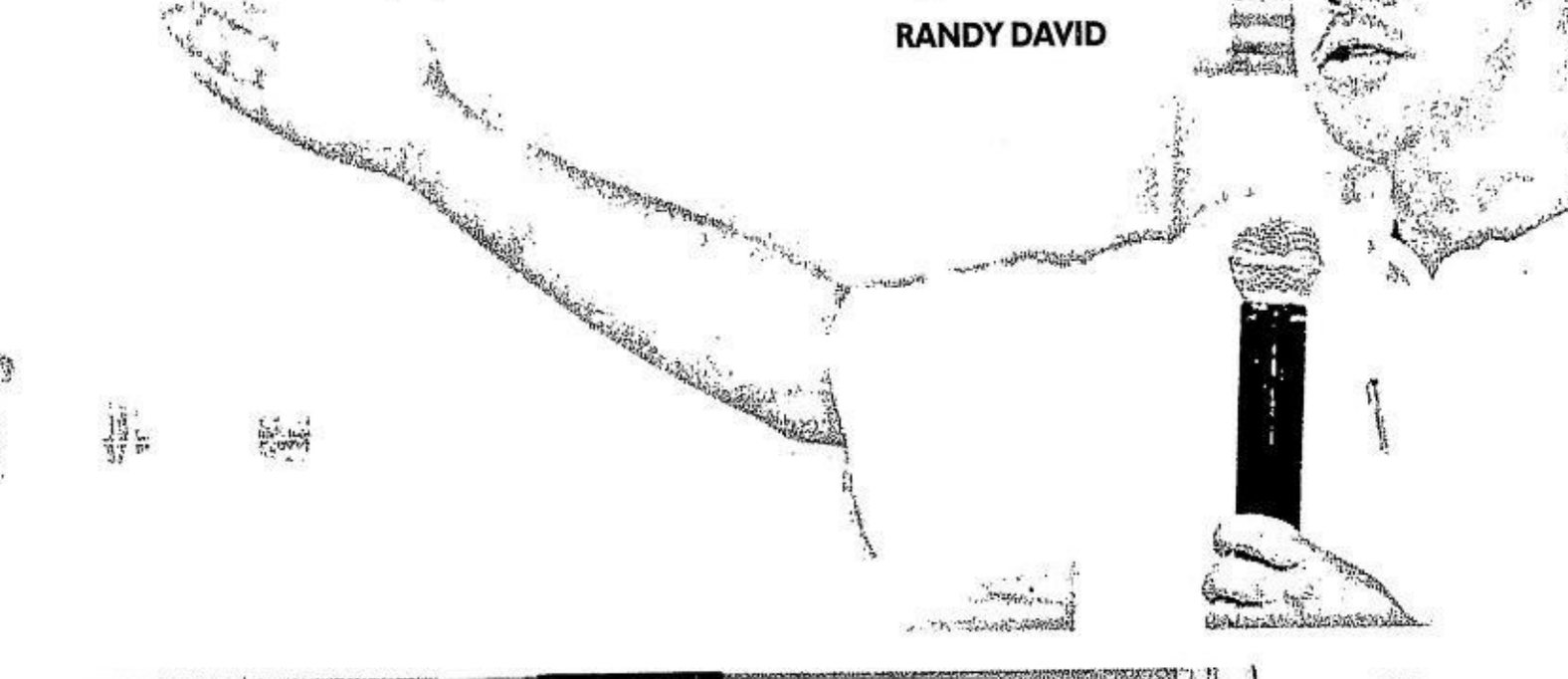
RODEL ROTONI

IN HER BRITTANIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE: Former UK Ambassador Paul Dimond (left), and incumbent UK envoy Peter Beckingham.

FORMER PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR to US, Albert del Rosario, chair of the Management Association of the Philippines.

> "Today, the public turns to the media—not just for information, but for definitions of reality, not just for news, but, for guidance on what to do."
>
> **RANDY DAVID**

COLUMNIST Cielito Habito, former secretary of economic planning.



INQUIRER CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez greets Magsaysay Awardee Jesse Robredo, mayor of Naga, while Chito Salazar of Philippine Business for Education looks on.

CEBU-BASED columnist Johnny Mercado

INQUIRER News Service editor Mike Suarez makes a point about education, while columnist Michael Tan listens in.

MEGAWORLD'S Andrew Tan is flanked by INQUIRER Chair Marixi R. Prieto and INQUIRER director Charlie Rufino.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER @22 Tried & True

Q3

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

Everyday folk can be ...

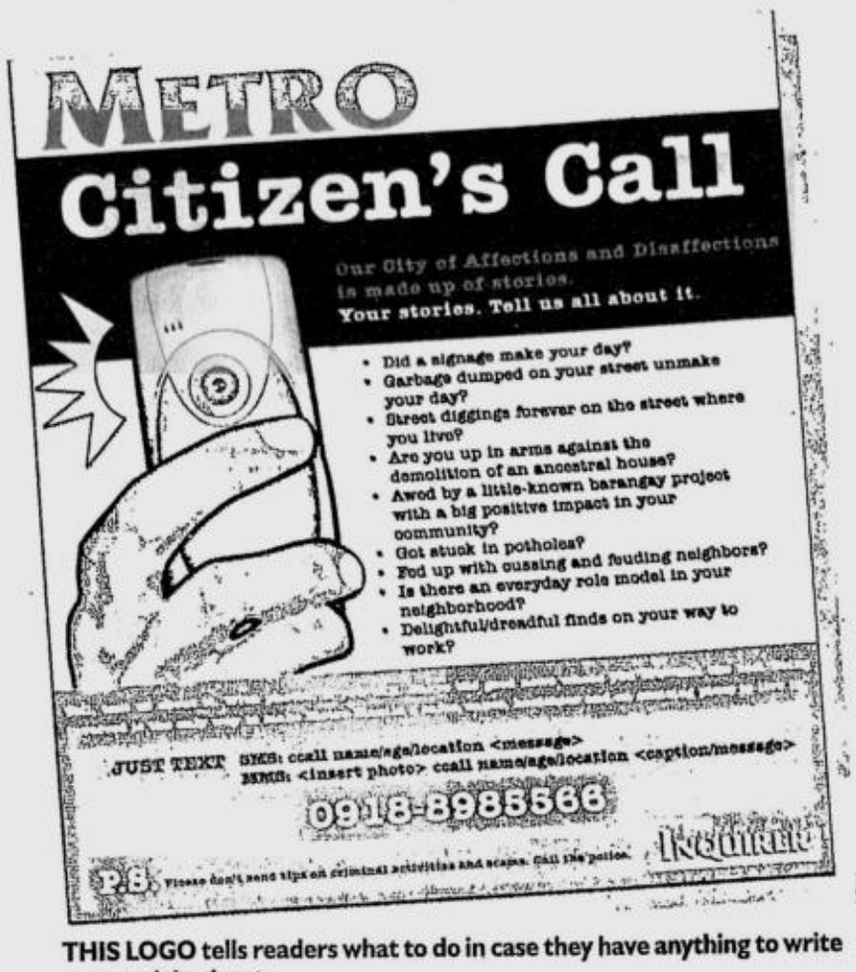
From page Q4

sent to local government officials about the delivery (or nondelivery) of basic services.

Mechanics were to be threshed out later with Dennis Leung, Marketing product manager, who would come out with studies on the logo to be used to publicize the program, and IT personnel who would devise a system using mobile phones to accept text and picture messages sent by potential citizen journalists.

What to call it? I suggested Citizen's Watch, but that sounded like a product endorsement of a timepiece, then came up with Citizen's Call which turned out to be the editor in chief's idea, too. So Citizen's Call it was.

On Sept. 11, the INQUIRER came out with an "ear" story on Page 1 about the new public service feature inviting readers to try being a reporter without getting a pay check, enduring the long hours and taking risks. Just doing one's bit as a citizen who cares about his or her community.



THIS LOGO tells readers what to do in case they have anything to write or complain about.

Instructions

In the Metro section of the same issue appeared a half-page ad with instructions on how to send messages or photos to a number reserved only for such calls. The ad also provided samples of calls or photos that Citizen's Call would accommodate like unfinished road improvement projects, barangay activities or projects worth emulating, even funny signs along the road that made you forget your troubles and come on get happy.

The ads appeared every week for close to a month, not only in the Metro section but in the other sections of the paper.

Computer glitches along the way, however, stymied efforts of early-birds. First the names of the callers came through, but no messages. Then it was the messages, but no names. Sometimes there were blanks.

IT solved the problem, and before long, the messages started streaming in. We also found out that readers were not too keen about sending photos.

But it was a different case for texters who furiously went to work, reporting everything from illegal cockfights in Tondo, to pornographic designs wrapped around passenger jeepneys, sidewalk *carinderias* blocking pedestrian traffic, traffic jams, smoke belchers and potholes on the day the first Citizen's Call corner appeared in Metro in October last year.

But not all the news was bad. One texter happily announced the existence of a badminton club for seniors in Parañaque City. Acting on that tip, Metro sent reporter Jocelyn Uy to do a feature on the club, and discovered an energetic band of senior citizens defying age and gravity, wielding rackets and having a great time.

Published complaints also got mayors and barangay captains raring to go to work, clearing *esteros*, fixing leaking pipes or picking up uncollected garbage in their communities.

Myopic readers, however, sent in tips—and continue to do so—about blights or delights in Davao, Masbate or Cagayan, overlooking a "requirement" in the Citizen's Call ad that comes out every so often, that the service is available—for the moment—only in Metro Manila.

The public service feature has created a faithful following of readers, like Tess V of Quezon City or Jasmine B of Caloocan City who send in tips regularly, with accompanying thank yous when a problem is solved.

Funny signs

It has also attracted funny sign aficionados like Richard S who sends us photos of these signages for the SIGN ON feature, although some contributions have bordered on the risqué or were spotted in the Visayas or Mindanao!

One year since its inception, Metro's Citizen's Call journalists may not have been able to "phone in" major disaster reportage the way its colleagues have done in New Orleans or London, but it's getting there.

One thing it can't solve, though.

A caller from Pangasinan texted his problem: "*Nalulungkot ako. Pwede mo akong tawagan?*" (I'm lonely. Can you call me?)

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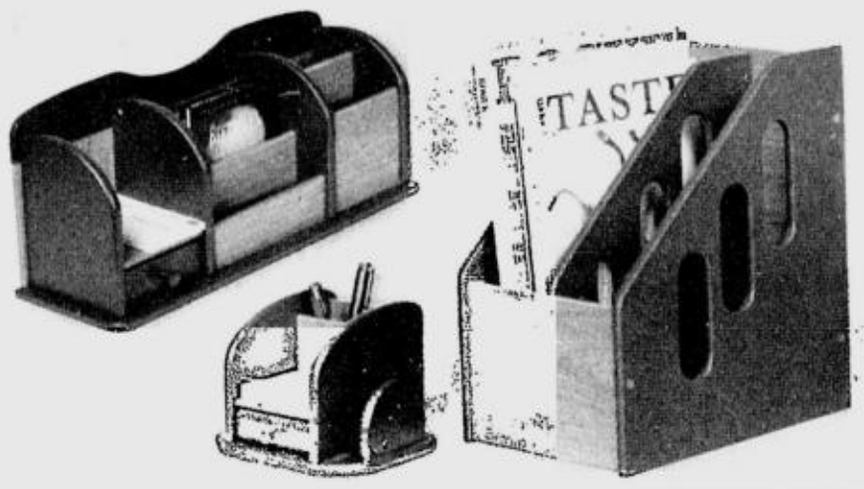

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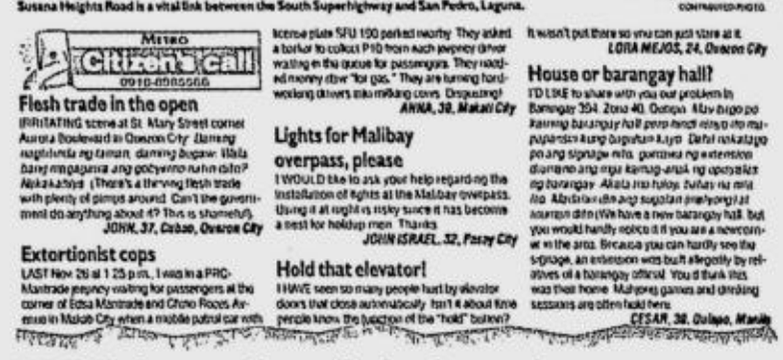
stationery & supplies
ALL THE stuff
AT SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Everyday folk can be citizen journalists

TUNASAN STREETLIGHTS
Motorists plying the Susana Heights Road in Tunasan, Muntinlupa City can now drive safely with the installation of new streetlights on the thoroughfare. The road was also recently rehabilitated through the initiative of Mayor Aldrin San Pedro and the City Council. Susana Heights Road is a vital link between the South Superhighway and San Pedro, Laguna. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Metro Citizen's Call 0918-6985566

Flesh trade in the open
IRRITATING scene at St. Mary Street corner Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City. Daming naglalandi ng lalaki, daming bugaw. Wala bang mapagsuma ang godyerno nuh'n dito? Nakakahiya. (There's a thriving flesh trade with plenty of pimps around. Can't the government do anything about it? This is shameful).
JOHN, 37, Cubao, Quezon City

Extortionist cops
LAST Nov. 26 at 1.25 p.m., I was in a PRC-Montrade jeepney waiting for passengers at the corner of Edsa Montrade and Cirino Roces Avenue in Makati City when a mobile patrol car with license plate SFU 150 parked nearby. They asked a barker to collect P10 from each jeepney driver waiting in the queue for passengers. They needed money daw "for gas." They are turning hard-working drivers into mabang cows. Disgusting!
ANNA, 38, Makati City

Lights for Malibay overpass, please
I WOULD like to ask your help regarding the installation of lights at the Malibay overpass. Using it at night is risky since it has become a nest for holdup men. Thanks
JOHN ISRAEL, 32, Pasay City

Hold that elevator!
I HAVE seen so many people hurt by elevator doors that close automatically. Isn't it about time people know the function of the "hold" button?
It wasn't put there so you can just stare at it.
LORA MEJOS, 24, Quezon City

House or barangay hall?
I'D LIKE to share with you our problem in Barangay 354, Zone 40, Quiapo. Kluv bigo po kaming barangay hall pero hindi nitso mo mapapansin kung bagsakan kayo. Dahil nakalagay po ang signage nito, pumasa ng extension diumano ang mga kamag-anak ng opisyales ng barangay. Akala mo tuloy, bahay na nila ito. Alinlalim din ang bagsakan pagkyong at asuncion dito (We have a new barangay hall. But you would hardly notice it if you are a newcomer in the area. Because you can hardly see the signage, an extension was built allegedly by relatives of a barangay official. You'd think this was their home. Mahjong games and drinking sessions are often held here.
CESAR, 38, Quiapo, Manila

SAMPLE of a page with contributions from readers

By Ester G. Dipasupil
Metro editor

OVER COFFEE AND PIZZA one hot August afternoon in the newsroom, where ideas are tossed, percolate, or are junked, a suggestion came up that it was about time the concept of citizen journalism was introduced in the country's number one newspaper.

Many had never heard of the term. Others perennially tuned in to cable TV or had discovered the blog were only too glad to share with the group what they knew about it.

Two years ago, citizen journalists drew public attention with their eyewitness reports of the top three disasters of 2004-2005: The tsunami in Asia, Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the London subway/bus bombings.

Using mobile phone cameras or digicams, everyday people provided the world with first-hand shots and vivid accounts of the events as these unfolded, along side—and sometimes, even ahead of—veteran print and broadcast journalists. It was citizen journalism's shining moment.

So why couldn't we do what they did?

As an experiment, the Metro section was chosen as the launching pad for citizen journalism, also called "we media" or "grassroots media," because ordinary folks were doing the reporting.

We decided to start simple, with a public service feature highlighting tips from Metro Manila readers on problems in their communities, projects they were proud of or alerts

EVERYDAY/ Q3

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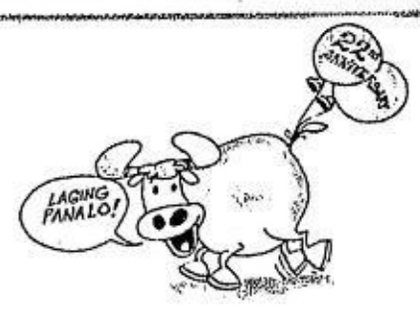
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2007

Corrections, please!

By the INQUIRER Research Staff

OOPS! WE'RE ALSO HUMAN

The INQUIRER mantra: Accuracy is of greatest importance to the INQUIRER.

In June 2004, the INQUIRER started to regularly run a "Corrections" column on Page 4.

The column contains corrections of factual errors in previous issues of the INQUIRER. It shows the INQUIRER's commitment to correct all errors, big and small, that appear on its pages. It also fulfills "the newspaper's obligation to treat its readers, news sources and news subjects as fairly and as openly as possible."

In the rush to beat the daily deadline, some errors were, as the following compilation of the common errors shows.

Wrong spelling/wrong name

The most common mistake that fills the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER's correction box almost every day is the misspelled—in worse cases, wrong—name. Notice how dropping a single letter can make a difference when referring to the United States ambassador:

A photo caption on the front page misspelled the surname of the United States ambassador to the Philippines. The ambassador's name is Kristie Kenney—not Kenny. (2006)

Yes, we are referring to the ambassador, not the restaurant. Note that this mistake has occurred not once, not twice, but FIVE times.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino's name has also suffered the same fate several times:

In recent issues, several articles and captions misstated the first name of the general who was part of the peace mission detained by the Moro National Liberation Front in Panamao, Sulu, last Feb. 3. He is Maj. Gen. Ben—not Benjamin—Dolorfino. (2007)

In the case of Mr. Bingo Braganza, having a playful name sometimes leads a writer to think of an equally playful surname to pair it with.

In the June 21 issue, the caption of a photograph in Maurice Arcache's column, "Without Batting an Eyelash," on Page C3 of the Lifestyle section misstated the name of the Air France-KLM marketing manager in the Philippines. The airline's local marketing manager, who is on the left of a couple in the photo, is Bingo Braganza—not Bonanza. (2005)

A front-page story—"Worst still to come, Bulusan folk warned"—misstated the name of Sorsogon division superintendent of the Department of Education. The acting DepEd division superintendent in Sorsogon is Marilyn Dimaano—not Nelly Beloso, who died last month. (2006)

Oftentimes reporters have to play it by ear just to beat the deadline, hence:

In the same issue, a story "Fire hits Las Piñas warehouse" misstated that the fire was put out using Aqua Use Fill Forming Foaming. The correct term is aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF). (2006)

Wrong numbers, lists and dates

Factual errors also abound, like the cringe-inducing "martial law" error last January:

In the Jan. 14 issue, an Across the Nation story "Island kids suffer from lack of bridge" erroneously stated that "martial law was declared in the 1960s." President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law on Sept. 21, 1972. (2007)

This one may have been caused more by the error of the finger than the mind:

A Page A4 headline—"Asean summit: 90 meetings in 80 days"—misstated the number of days in the 12th Asean summit to be held in Cebu from Dec. 6 to 13. The conference lasted for eight—not 80—days. (2006)

Working at a newspaper can make one feel like there aren't enough days in a month. Unfortunately, the outside world may not feel the same. And so:

The story "Cops told: Get 17 suspects by Sept. 31" on Aug. 25 misstated the number of days in the month. There are only 30 days in September. (2006)

Lists can be mind-boggling. Especially long ones:

A sidebar "List of lawmakers in the President's trip to Madrid, Spain" mistakenly included the names of the following representatives: Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao, Antonio Alvarez of Palawan, Rodolfo Antonino of Nueva Ecija, Rodolfo Albano III of Isabela and Ann Tan of Western Samar. (2007). But then, it was the Palace that supplied the list of names in President Arroyo's 200-man delegate in her trip to Spain, London and France.

We made the same mistake two years ago.

A front-page story—"UN security cools ardor of GMA 'hakot' crowd"—mistakenly included Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus in the list of congressmen who had gone to New York

Vergel Lemuel Buenaventura; Juele, Mary Christine Solatre; Limcaoco, Mary Rose Celerina Bella; Magsino, Mark Anthony Reus; Mateo, Kristine Joy De Leon; Narag, Maria Elizabelle Quisano; Pacheco, Renielyn Soriano; Peña, Jonathan Rillera; Ramos, Maria Lowelyn Cabig; Rosario, Grace Ramos; Selodio, Evan Ferrancullo; Tapangco, Michael Paolo Mendoza; and Valmores, Ma. Margarita De Grano—were omitted inadvertently from the list published on Page A8.

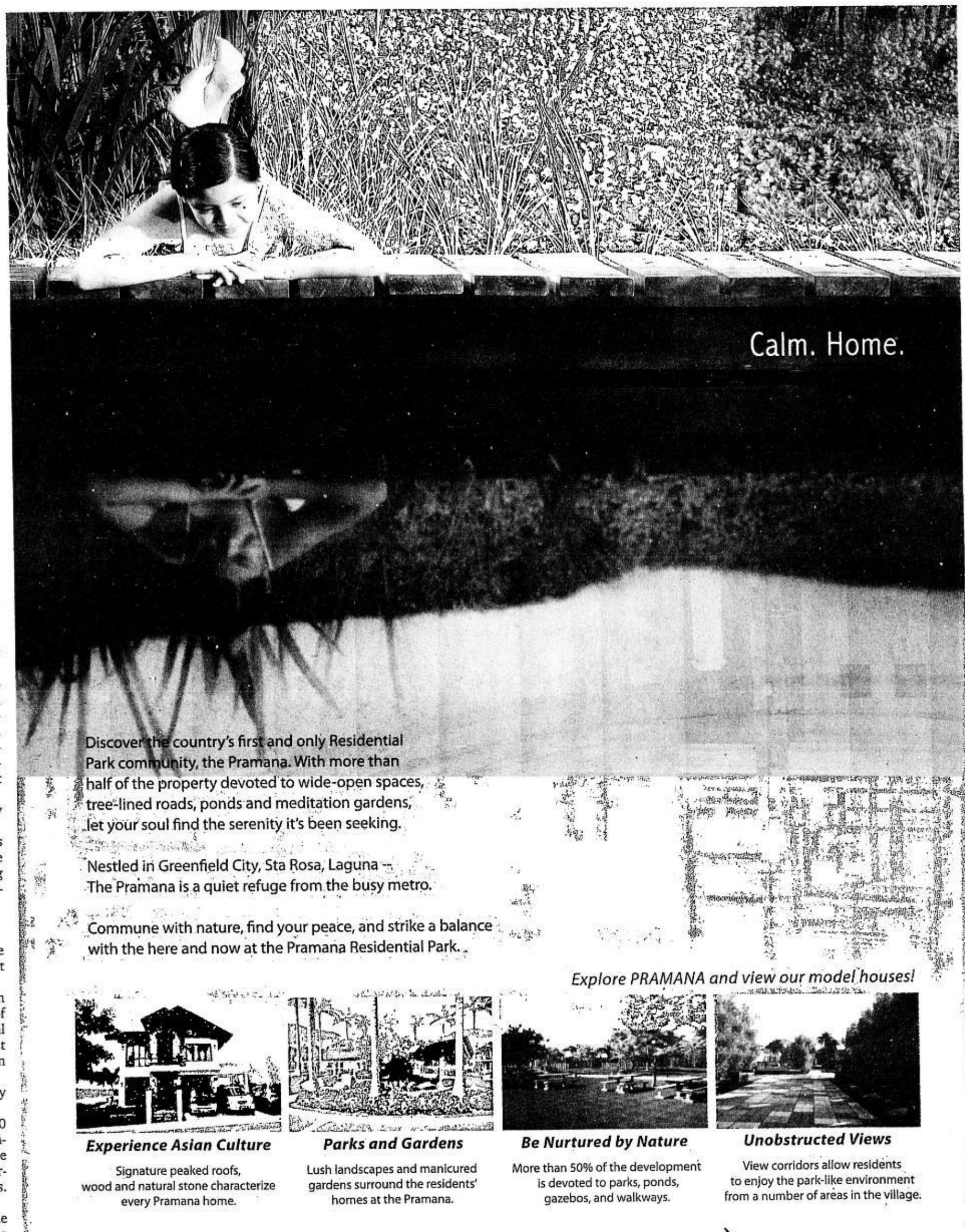
A system error caused the omission. Our

CORRECTIONS/ R2

City for Ms Arroyo's speech before the United Nations assembly. (2005)

This mistake caused INQUIRER phones to ring nonstop. Parents were mad. Oh, they were so mad.

The names of 23 examinees who passed the recent medical board exams—Alihan, Maria Emerald Sison; Arciga, Rene Lynn Alegre; Banzon, Noel Alfonso III Villaluna; Bueno, Michael Pol Udarbe; Castillo, Jeanette Katigbak; Corpuz, Cherry Ann Santos; De La Cruz, Jason Danganan; Dones, Dan Michael Collong; Ezpeleta, Alli Roman Ian Pueyo; Gambito, Ephraim De Vera; Habito,



Corrections, please!

From page R1

apologies and congratulations. (2007)

Mistaken identity

Apologies also to Gov. Panlilio of Pampanga:

In the Nov. 22 issue, the front page banner story—"Magnate tied to cash gifts"—erroneously described Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio as a former priest. When Panlilio filed his candidacy, he was suspended from performing priestly duties but he remains a priest. (2007)

If the only options are "excess fat" and "cancer," what will Bong Revilla choose?

In one story—"Bong Revilla hospitalized"—misstated what the senator was operated for. The senator underwent an operation for lipoma or excess fat—not lymphoma, a kind of cancer. (2006)

This is an example of a double error. Apologies to Vice Mayor Pajanustan.

An Across the Nation story "1 week of rains kills 4, displaces thousands in Northern, East Samar" misspelled the surname and misstated the position of an official who was among those displaced by the flood in Eastern Samar. The official's name is Fulgencio Pajanustan—not Fajanustan—Sr. He is not the vice governor of Eastern Samar but the vice mayor of Jipadpad town. (2007)

Sometimes it helps to ask an expert about these—whachamacallit—vehicles:

A photo caption in Across the Nation misstated the type of vehicle that figured in an accident on the South Luzon Expressway on Nov. 28. The vehicle was a bulk carrier—not a cement mixer. (2005)

Wrong relationship

The age of Oedipus has come and gone—but it pops in every now and then in the Correction Box:

A letter to the editor says "If the Arroyos are doing it, it must be right" misstated the relationship of Sen. Edgardo Angara to the governor of Aurora province. Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo is the sister—not the wife—of Senator Angara. (2007)

In the Aug. 23 issue, the headline of a story "Disini brod loses immunity" misstated the relationship of Herminio and Jesus Disini. The two are cousins—not brothers. (2007)

Misquotes

In the Feb. 17 issue, an article in the Super section—"My brother is not a Pig!"—attributed the statement mistakenly to Mimilanie (aka Melanie) Marquez. The famous line was uttered by Nora Aunor in the film "Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo." Marquez' infamous line, on the other hand, was, "Don't judge my brother (actor Joey Marquez). He's not a book." (2007)

Conversion/wrong figures

We hate math. That's why we're in the media.

In a front page story—"Singapore police alert RP on stolen aviation fuel"—erroneously converted the dimensions of six pails of jet fuel which disappeared from an oil storage facility in Singapore. The pails' height of 50 cm is equivalent to about one foot and eight inches—not four feet and two inches. The diameter, 38 cm, is equivalent to one foot and three inches—not three feet and two inches. (2006)

In the Aug. 2 issue, a story on Page A19 of the Sports section—"PBA meeting up; Harbour keen on Shell"—misstated the estimated price of the Shell franchise. The estimated price is P50 million—not P50,000,000 million. (2006)

The headline of a front page story—"Taipans put in P5B to get 5M tourists in 5 years"—misstated the amount that taipans are willing to invest to bring in tourists to the country. The taipans are investing $5 billion—not P5 billion. (2006)

A front page story—"Emergency rule spooks peso, stocks, friends, foes"—misstated the peso-dollar exchange rate on Feb. 24. On Friday, the peso fell to 52.20—not 55.20—against the US dollar. (2006)

Wrong caption

The picture and the caption must go hand-in-hand. When they don't:

A wrong photo (left) accompanied the story—"Burial day of Albano declared town holiday"—in the Across the Nation section. The man shown in the photo is Benjamin Olalia Sr.—not the late Mayor Delfinito Albano (right). (2006)

An INQUIRER Northern Luzon article "Quarry challenge stays on" carried the wrong photograph. The caption, "These receipts, when faked, will lead to the stealing of quarry revenues for Pampanga," should have been used with the topmost photo—not with the photo above. (2007)

A photo of a man selling flowers at the Jaro Plaza in Iloilo carried the wrong caption. The Across the Nation photo should have carried this caption—"Competing with firecrackers. A man tends to his stall of flowers at the Jaro Plaza in Iloilo City, hours before New Year's Eve. Near his stall are stores and vendors selling firecrackers." (2007)

A caption on the Entertainment section misstated that GMA 7 reporter Jay Taruc had accepted a posthumous award on behalf of his father Joe during rites marking the Rotary Club of Manila's 2005 Journalism Awards. Jose "Joe" Taruc, the recipient of the organization's Hall of Fame Award, is still alive. (2006)

In the Oct. 20 issue, a story in the Entertainment section on Page A22—"Guitar Quartet at arts fest"—misstated that the Philippine National Artist for Music is "the late Lucrecia Roces Kasilag." Ms Kasilag is alive and well. (2005)

In the Aug. 6 issue, a Lifestyle article on Page D2—"A View of the Subconscious"—mistakenly stated that artist Ian Quirante was a recipient of the Thirteen Artists Award given by the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Quirante has yet to receive the award. (2007)

Wrong head

This correction is short and sweet and straight to the point:

In the first edition of the May 24 issue, the headline "Army welcomes probe of Burgos abduction" on page A2 was accompanied by the wrong story. (2007)

Grave errors

We are No. 1, but we make mistakes. But we rise again. We try again to be correct.

In the Across the Nation section, a news item—"Ordeal not over for kidnap victims"—erroneously stated that Alberto Alcuar and Quedan Lim were still being held hostage by the Pentagon gang. The two kidnap victims had been killed by the notorious gang. (2006)

Compiled by Minerva Generalao, Eliza Victoria and Cyril Bonabente

PBA Superstar.
Successful Businessman.
What will Jolas be next?

Jojo Lastimosa, 43.
Painter.

I know I can still be anybody I want to be at 43. After being a basketball player and businessman, now I'm dabbling in painting. Really, the only thing that will stop me from pursuing what I want is my own body.

And that's why I take HavitAll. It enhances normal cell regeneration – the body's natural ability to repair and restore itself. It's a process that slows down with age. HavitAll Multivitamins help keep my body functioning at optimum levels. So I'm ready to take on whatever challenge comes next.

So, the next Jojo Lastimosa... could be anybody.

THE NEXT YOU SHOULD HAVIT ALL
MULTIVITAMINS & MINERALS
ENHANCES NORMAL CELL REGENERATION

CHAIR Marixi Prieto (center) leads CMMA 2007 awardees Nestor P. Burgos Jr. (left) for best news coverage; Alcuin Papa (second from left) and Volt Contreras (second from right) for best investigative report and Edwin Bacasmas (right) for best news photograph. Giving the thumbs up are deskman Leti Boniol (third from left) and INQUIRER readers' advocate Lorna Kalaw Tirol.
ROMY HOMILLADA

More than 200 awards ...

From page R4

• **I-Team (Fernando del Mundo, Leila Salaverria, Margaux Ortiz, Tina Arceo-Dumlao, Donna Pazzibugan, Carla Gomez, Tech Torres and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.)**, Second Place—Explanatory Report, Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism (JVOAEJ)

• **Melvin Gascon (Correspondent)**, Second Prize—Investigative Journalism, Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism (JVOAEJ)

• **Fe Zamora**, First Prize—Investigative Journalism, Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism

• **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, Finalist for "Volcanic Ash" ad, Clio Awards

• **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, Bronze Awardee for "Volcanic Ash" ad, Asian Media Spikes

• **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, Finalist—Campaign of the Year, Reading Series of New Paper Drive, Creative Guild Ad

• **Philippine Daily Inquirer** , New Paper Drive, Creative Guild Ad of the Month

• **Michael Tan**, Outstanding Column on Children ("Raising Babies," Nov. 17, 2006), UNICEF & PPI

CMMA Best editorial cartoon "Rights of the child" by Jess Abrera

• **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, Child-Friendly Newspaper Award (Hall of Fame awardee), UNICEF & PPI

• **Rem Zamora**, Best in General News Photography Award, Asia Media Award by IFAF

• **Rem Zamora**, Newspaper Photographer of the Year, Asia Media Award by IFAF

• **Ambeth Ocampo**, 2nd place—Primer Premio de Periodismo Quijano de Manila (1st Quijano de Manila Journalism Award); column: "Signs of Identity" 11/30/05, Embassy of Spain & Instituto Cervantes

"Knowledge Trip with Guyito" project wins an award of merit from the Philippine Quill. Receiving the award are INQUIRER senior vice president Rene Reinoso (center), corporate affairs head Connie Kalagayan (second from left) and corporate affairs associate Megi Garcia (second from right). Joining them are IABC directors Jeric Sevilla (left) and Carmencita Arce (right).
RUDY ESPERAS

Araneta Center
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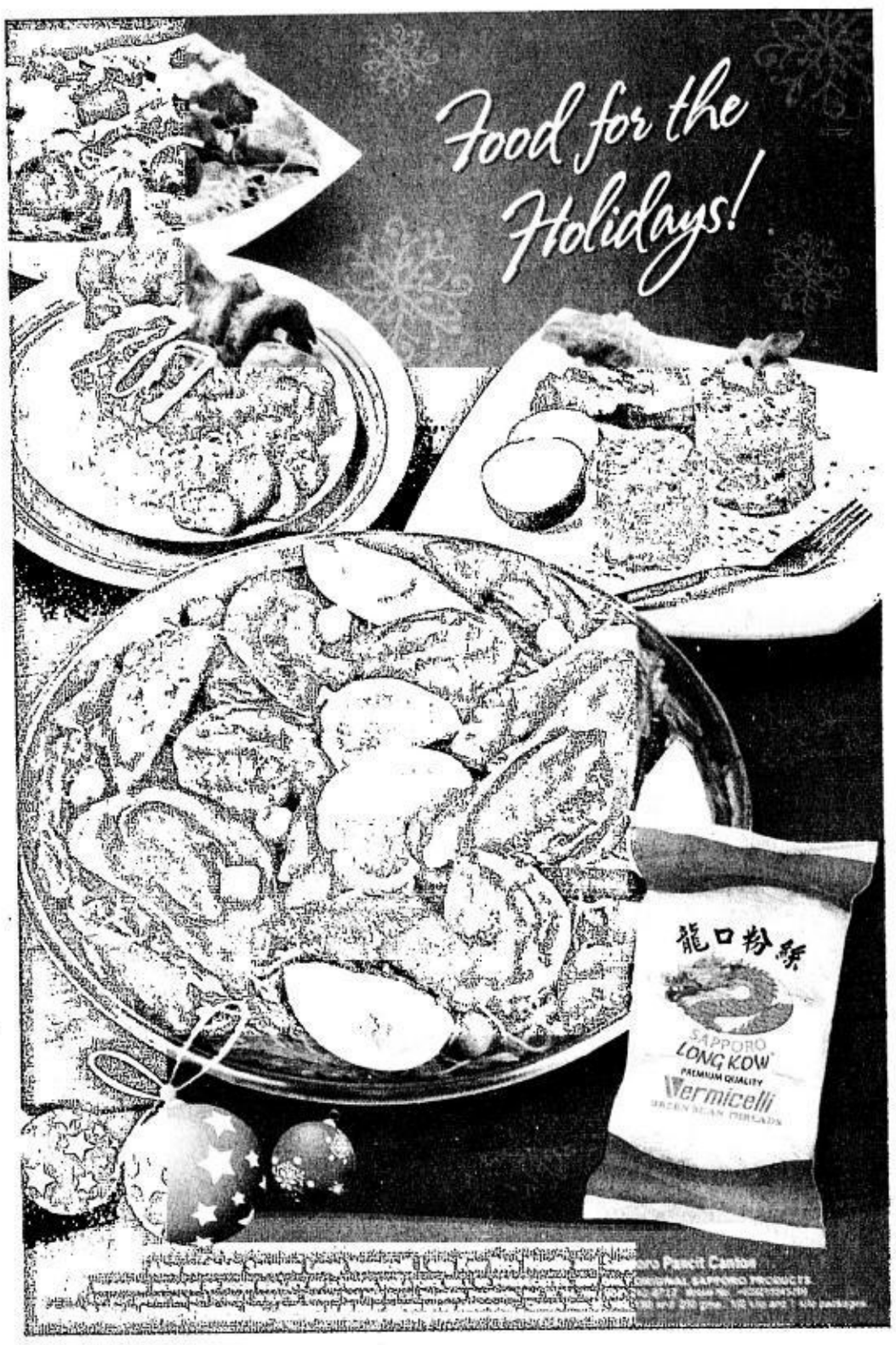
INQUIRER
Tried & True @ 22

More than 200 awards in 22 years, and counting



THE INQUIRER HAS WON MORE THAN 200 awards since its founding 22 years ago. Thirty-four of these awards were given this year. Here are the winners:

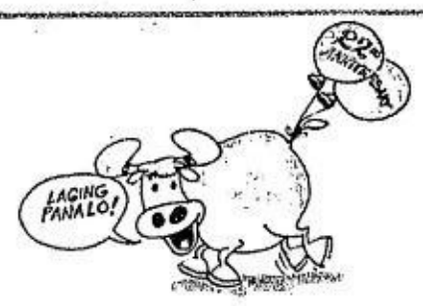
- **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, Knowledge Trip with Guyito, Award of Merit, Special events, Philippine Quill
- **Lyn Rillon**, Best Sports Photo, National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Lyn Rillon**, Photo of the Year, National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Best Photo (Wow Philippines category), National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Best Ecology Shot—"Laharlandia," National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Best Photo Essay, National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Best Human Interest photo, National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Best News Photo, National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Photojournalist of the Year, National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest
- **Nestor Torre**, Best Entertainment Column—"Viewfinder," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Michael Tan**, Best Opinion Column—"Pinoy Kasi," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Nestor P. Burgos, Jr., Leila Salaverria**, Best News Coverage—"Oil spill off Guimaras could reach Boracay," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Gemma Luz Corotan**, Special Citation in Best Investigative Report category—"Filipino sex prisoner thought she was in France," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Leila Salaverria**, Special Citation in Best Investigative Report category—"Guimaras Oil Spill," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Fernando del Mundo, Volt Contreras, Alcuin Papa**, Best Investigative Report—"The State of Philippine Education," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Best News Photograph—"Father and Child," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Jess Abrera**, Best Editorial Cartoon—"Rights of the Child," Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA)
- **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**, One of the 10 awardees, The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS)

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates INQUIRER President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, TOWNS awardee 2007. EDWIN BACASMAS

- **Jocelyn Uy**, Outstanding Reporter for 2007, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption
- **Edwin Bacasmas**, Outstanding Photograph Award—"Life in the evacuation," Lasallian Scholarum Awards
- **Tonette Orejas**, Outstanding Feature Award, Lasallian Scholarum Awards
- **Daxim Lucas and Clarissa Batino**, Third Place—Explanatory Report, Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism (JVOAEJ)

MORE/ R3

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2007

Spreading the word by convergence

By Miguel C. Suarez
Chief, Inquirer News Service

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, FROM A cubicle tucked away behind the central news room, the Inquirer News Service (INS) collects, edits and transmits an average of 40 news stories and as many photographs to four other distinct news operations.

For as the Philippine Daily Inquirer reinvents itself from a traditional newspaper to a dynamic organization that delivers news and information in real time to Filipinos wherever in the world they may be, INS is increasingly becoming the engine of the INQUIRER group's convergence strategy to attain that vision.

It is through INS, now seven years old, that the newspaper's operations are integrated with those of Inquirer.net, the online platform; the tabloids Bandera and Tumbok; the regional newspaper Cebu Daily News; and the magazines in the stable of Hinge Inquirer Publications, and vice versa.

Extending the brand

But more than just delivering the news, INS extends the reach of the INQUIRER brand, not only throughout the length and breadth of the archipelago but also to all four corners of the world wherever Filipinos are.

Although its complement of three editors and two encoders does not include a single reporter, INS counts on the INQUIRER's Manila-based reporters and about 100 correspondents nationwide who file stories via four regional news bureaus—two in Luzon, one in the Visayas and another in Mindanao.

Recognizing that not all INQUIRER readers can wait for tomorrow's paper to get the news, more and more INQUIRER reporters are filing news reports as events unfold to help Inquirer.net put the news within reach of online readers—when they want it, which is right away. Big breaking stories are fed to some readers via SMS.

For reporters long accustomed to meeting deadlines late in the afternoon, filing breaking news reports is a feat that requires not only a shift in mind-set but also a change in work habits—even lifestyle. Indeed, many are rising to the challenge.

OFW readers

"INS makes it possible for the Inquirer.net to have the broadest and most comprehensive breaking news coverage among Philippine online news sites by channeling the work of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's bureaus and reporters," says JV Rufino, the online operation's editor in chief.

The vast majority of Inquirer.net readers are overseas Filipinos scattered all over the world.

Other satisfied customers are the editors of Bandera, which caters to the C, D, E markets and is now the No. 1 tabloid in the Visayas and Mindanao, and Tumbok, a gaming tabloid that caters to fans of horse racing and cock fighting.

Both papers, which have strong show biz coverage that also often find its way to the Inquirer.net, are published by Inquirer Publication Inc., an

SPREADING/ S3

Alex Cabagnot's Calorie Management

Calories? What Calories?

You can neither smell nor taste them, yet managing and understanding them can greatly improve your health, hence, your life. A calorie is a standard unit to measure energy, commonly used in food. Everyday, we burn these calories depending on the amount of physical activity we engage in.

Good Health, Good Life

That is why in every activity that we apply ourselves in, the Coca-Cola Company strives to give back through its myriad of products, things to make life happy; products which make you get the most out of experiences and live life to the fullest. The Coca-Cola Company believes that balancing our calorie consumption and the amount of physical activity that we engage in is essential to having a happy, balanced life.

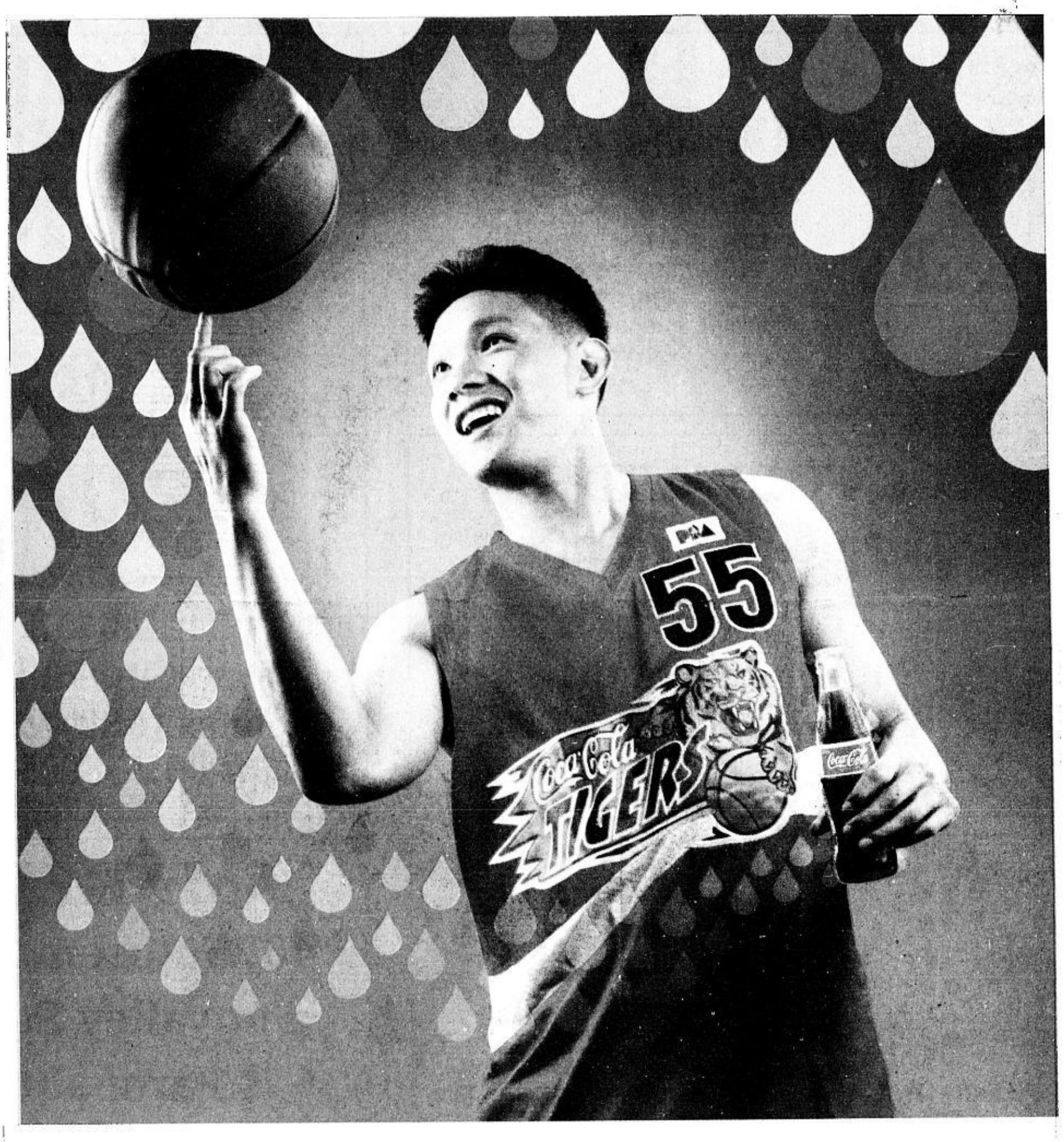
Basketball player Alex Cabagnot shares the same belief, saying that "good health depends on our ability to take care of our body through a balanced diet and a daily dosage of physical activities." He believes that in maintaining balance, you end up feeling better about yourself. He also goes on to say, "Being active and having a balanced diet make you feel less tired. They give you more of the energy you need to enjoy whatever life gives you."

Manage Your Calories

Learn how to manage your calories. Make full use of them and enjoy life. Engage in a sport, enroll in a gym, and continue to find ways for you to remain physically active. This way, you get to happily refresh your body and soul with each and every fizzle of your most loved softdrink from the Coca-Cola Company.

The Coca-Cola Company
bawat patak, mahalaga

www.bawatpatakmahalaga.com.ph

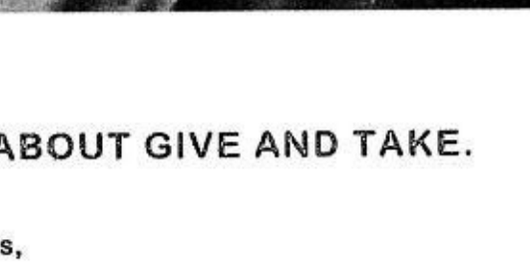


"A BALANCED LIFE IS ALL ABOUT GIVE AND TAKE.

When I do a lot of physical activity
like playing basketball and coaching kids,
I burn the calories I take in.
So I can have the drinks that make me happy!"

Alex Cabagnot
Basketball Player and Coach

A balanced life is a Sparkling Life.



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INQUIRER NEWS SERVICE staff at work (from left) Robelyn Reyes, Deo Roberto, Shalomaigne Mapagu, INS chief Mike Suarez and Sandra Sesdoyro. ERIK ARAZAS

Spreading the word ...

From page S1

INQUIRER subsidiary. IPI also publishes the Cebu Daily News.

"INS is a vital partner of Bandera and Tumbok in our effort to give reliable and relevant information and news to the communities we serve," says Bandera editor in chief Arlene Burgos. "Its capacity to promptly process and move breaking news allows us elbow room to tailor fit news content in a manner and presentation that is engaging for our readers."

Quality control

She adds: "But the real value-added of INS, for us, is that ... there is a deliberate and conscious effort for quality control, and due-diligence checks to ensure compliance with baseline journalism standards."

Cebu Daily News weighs in. "As a community paper serving Visayas readers, Cebu Daily News has the edge in comprehensive and breaking national stories among local dailies because of INS dispatches," says Eileen Mangubat, publisher and acting editor in chief of the CDN.

> 'More than just delivering the news, INS extends the reach of the INQUIRER brand'

"The service gives us the big national picture and finds time to track down stories of special interest to Cebu, like the impact of the newly approved Spanish treaty on Cebuano convict Paco Larrañaga," she notes.

Copyright guardian

In addition to providing news and feature stories and photos to the INQUIRER's subsidiaries, INS acts as the guardian of the INQUIRER's copyright over the material it generates.

It evaluates requests for reprints of both photos and articles, which are numerous. Permission is often given free—say to NGOs raising funds or government agencies doing information campaigns—or for a modest fee to cover administrative and other expenses.

INS does sell photos to magazines and book publishers and occasionally even to advertisers—yet one other way to extend the brand, and earn a little on the side.

Meet the little-known dependables:

Arts and culture

By Joel V. Nigos

COVERING THE ERUPTION of Mt. Pinatubo for three days from the vantage view of Clark Airfield and following the exodus of its displaced residents for months from Pampanga and Zambales to Tarlac, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan were some of the most memorable experiences with the INQUIRER of Lifestyle writer Constantino Tejero.

Tino began his career with PDI as contributor for Sunday Inquirer Magazine. "I wrote a feature article then on Col. Gregorio Honasan (the Ramboys then was hot) and submitted it to three magazines vowing I would stay with whichever accepted it first. Though the editors of the three magazines asked me to report to them, it was SIM which called me up first, so I stuck around," Tino recalls.

He shares that in his first few months with SIM as contributor, its then editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc "plunged me once into hard-core journalism, made me do investigative articles on the perennial flooding of Taguig and Pateros, on the plight of the sacadas of Negros, spiritualism and the supernatural, among others." He also summarized in layman's language the entire proposed 1987 Constitution in two days! Tino's now writing mostly lifestyle features and art reviews, and helps close Lifestyle's arts and culture section.

Call him 'Sir Ely'

By Marie Fe Reyes

THE EUPHORIA BROUGHT about by the Edsa People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship was still high when Eligio Fugaban began his career with the INQUIRER.

Hired as a cameraman on March 21, 1987, Ely still vividly recalls how tedious newspaper printing was then because every step of the process is manual. That was why, he says, he heaved a sigh of relief when the production process was transformed into digital which also gave birth to PDI's Digital Pre-press Unit around 1999.

"*Mas naging madali na yung trabaho ko at naging mas mabilis na rin yung proseso*," shares Ely, now a production specialist, who remembers taking and developing photos of the each newspaper pages to start the printing process.

Throughout his 20-year stint, Ely has gained the respect of his fellow employees, reason maybe why he's fondly called "Sir Ely." Happily married to Lolita for 26 years, his eldest son Edgardo is a Marketing graduate while his three other children, Lanie, Edmundo and Elmer, are all in college.

"*Mahirap nang tibagin ang* INQUIRER," he states as he wishes the company to continue to pursue its mission of being a world-class processor of news and information not just for the Philippines but for the whole world as well.

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Panasonic ideas for life

Panasonic Philippines
extends their warmest congratulations to

Philippine Daily Inquirer

for its anniversary, successfully putting forward credible and responsible journalism and continuously promoting an endless and fearless pursuit for truth.

Panasonic spreads Christmas ideas for life

If you're looking for the perfect Christmas gift to give to your loved ones, don't just settle for anything less. Go for the BEST. Product Excellence. The functional, the beautiful and the worthwhile that last for years.

That is the premise of Panasonic Philippines as it proudly presents its wide ensemble of products that will serve as the marvelous strings attached to this year's Christmas presents.

Whilst the Yuletide season focuses on mistletoes, Santa Claus and his bag of gifts for the naughty and nice, Panasonic Philippines gives a further breather to the hardworking men and women of the contemporary world by providing them the best of the modern technology trends.

Witness the magnificence of the visual era with Panasonic's line of LCD and Plasma TVs that dare to change run-of-the-mill entertainment viewing. Its high-resolution images, finer gradation and greater expressiveness will make a difference to your daily boobtube fix. The high-performance V-Real II Driver, which optimizes the performance of the display panel, the Real Black Drive System and the Deep Black Filter that reproduce deep rich blacks and sharp images further tote up the Filipino TV fixation.

Multiply the excitement by 100 and the screen pops up with Panasonic's 103-inch Plasma TV Panel, the world's largest Full HD Plasma TV.

For shutterbugs who want to capture precious family moments beside the Christmas tree, Panasonic's Lumix collection offers photography par excellance with its newest models such as FX100, the FX55 and FX33, to name a few. These digital goodies promise to perfectly immortalize wonderful memories that are fully pumped up this time of the year.

Candid moments during noche buena are best captured in video, especially with Panasonic's full high-definition DVD, Hard Disk, SD, Mini-DV camcorders. The new HDC-SX5 and HDC-SD5 offers 3CCD HD technology that provides superior image quality and better precision.

The cold Christmas weather gets cooler with Panasonic's slew of refrigerators that operate an Intelligent Microprocessor, "the brain" that monitors the temperature inside the fridge and transmits that information to the compressor. The Inverter Compressor or the "heart" of the refrigerator adjusts the power output that raises or lowers the inverter rpms for optimal cooling. With these powerhouse functions, electricity consumption will be reduced.

Coming in single and double tubs are Panasonic's Aquabeat washing machines that serve as convenient gifts for the household. With the dolphin drive and foam wash technology, your loved ones can only expect cleaner results.

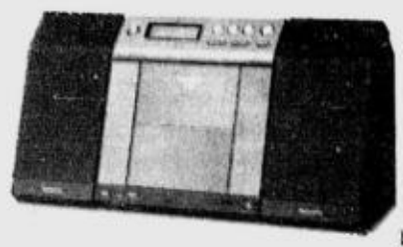
Indulge them further with coolness and comfort with Panasonic's environmental innovations or ENVIO air-conditioners that gives energy-saving, quick-cooling and flexible power control. If the budget doesn't allow steeper expenditures, Panasonic's powerful, durable and long-lasting electric fans vows to sweep your Christmas troubles away.

In the spirit of the Yuletide season, Panasonic Philippines continues to advocate the importance of thinking big Ideas for Life as it lays out the best options for a more memorable Christmas experience.

Panasonic
ideas for life

SC-PT850

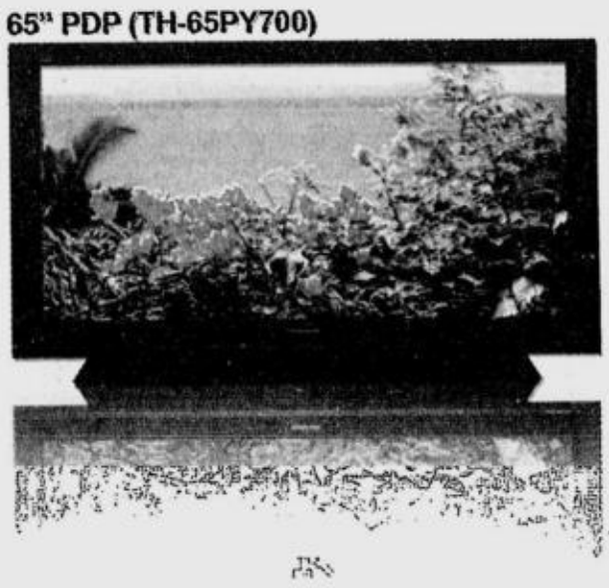
SC EN-35



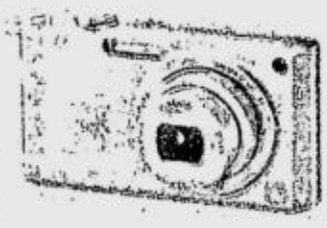
TX- 37LX75

103" PDP (TH-103PF9)

65" PDP (TH-65PY700)



LUMIX DMC-FX33

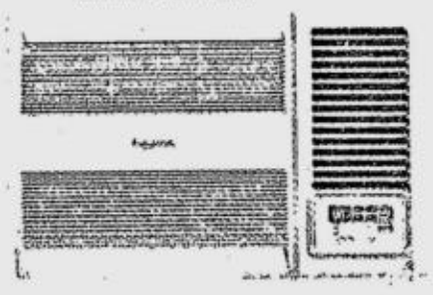


HDC-SX5

HDC-SD5

NR-B402V-S9

CW-XC24



AQUABEAT
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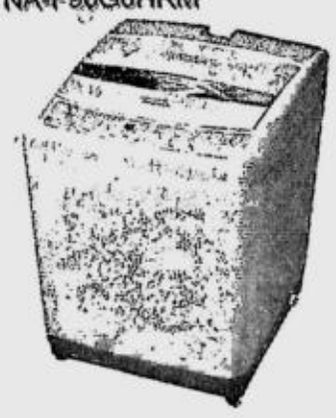

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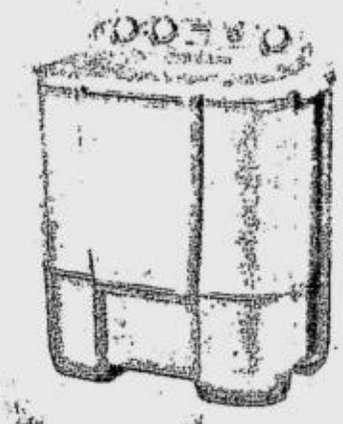
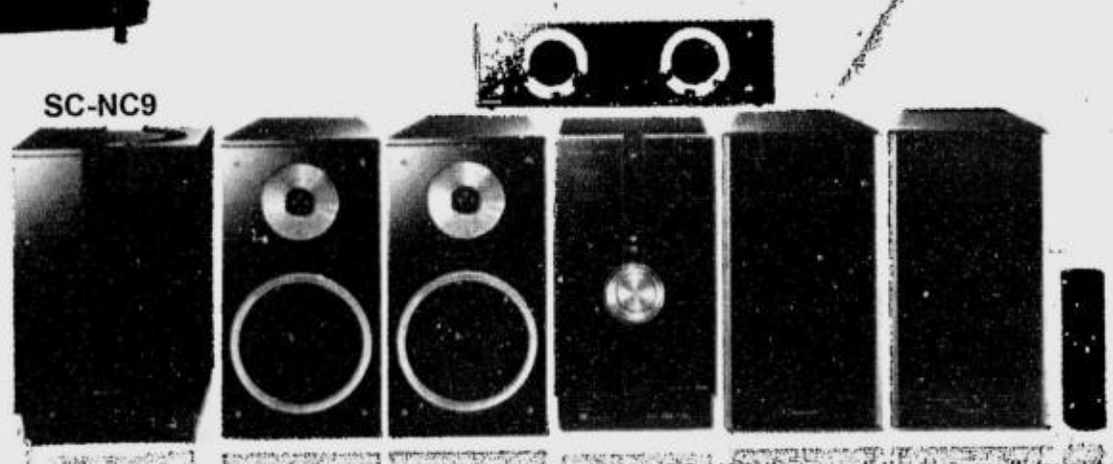


F-45PSP-BLUE

CS/CU-S12GKQ (1.5 hp)

SC-NC9

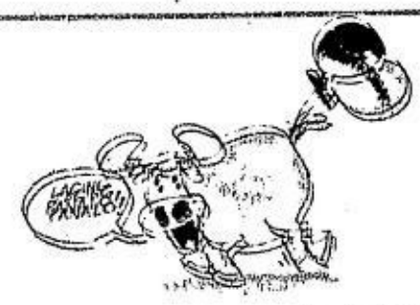


Full-blast soundtrip

Dream and experience surround sound at its loudest and most beautiful reverberation with the all-new SC-NC9 that revolutionizes multi-layout speaker system innovations. Introducing excellent optical sound quality from every music source, the SC-NC9 DVD mini-system has bi-amp twin speaker quality sound, for hi-fi experience, a powerful stereo sound for musical high, a 5.1 inch surround sound for magnificent movie moments and the multi speaker party. sound..absolute party perfection.

It also supports USB connection for Div-X, WMA, MP3, JPEG and MPEG2 Playback. Another great come on for SC-NC9 is its Viera Link capabilities that let you operate a variety of AV devices using the Vie a remote control, thus taking another step forward on the HD revolution.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Photo's dynamic duo: Bacasmas, Rillon Winning is getting to be a habit

By Ernie U. Sarmiento
Chief of photographers

WINNING IN PHOTO contests has become a habit for this veteran photojournalist.

This year alone, Edwin Bacasmas won five first prizes in 10 categories of the 2007 First Gentleman-Press Photographers of the Philippines (PPP) photo contest, Best News Photo in the 2007 Catholic Mass Media Awards (he has collected four since 2001), People's Choice Award in the Greenpeace photo contest, Outstanding Photograph on Youth and Education from the La Sallian Scholarium Awards and the Photojournalist of the Year award from the PPP.

On the side, he also picked up the first prize in the Ilocos Norte governor-sponsored Seven Days in Ilocos photo safari. With all the cash prizes he has won, one colleague joked, Edwin could easily pay for a fabulous wedding reception at a posh Makati hotel.

Bacasmas joined the INQUIRER in 1997 after a stint as a news photographer at the then Gokongwei-owned Manila Times.

His style of photography usually includes a visual surprise—shots that show readers the unexpected or the humor in everyday living.

For example, those unfamiliar with the Bacasmas style will describe his photo of two people walking into the sunset as a simple shot of a father and his son walking along the beach. A closer look will reveal that the subjects are President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Mike taking a leisure walk in Tubbataha, Palawan.

Lyn Rillon has her own share of awards. Her photo of a seemingly headless gymnast won for her the PPP Photo of the Year award as well as Sports Photo of the Year last Sept. 26. The photo, Mike Arroyo's favorite shot of the Southeast Asian Games in Manila, was the SEA Games' Best Photo winner.

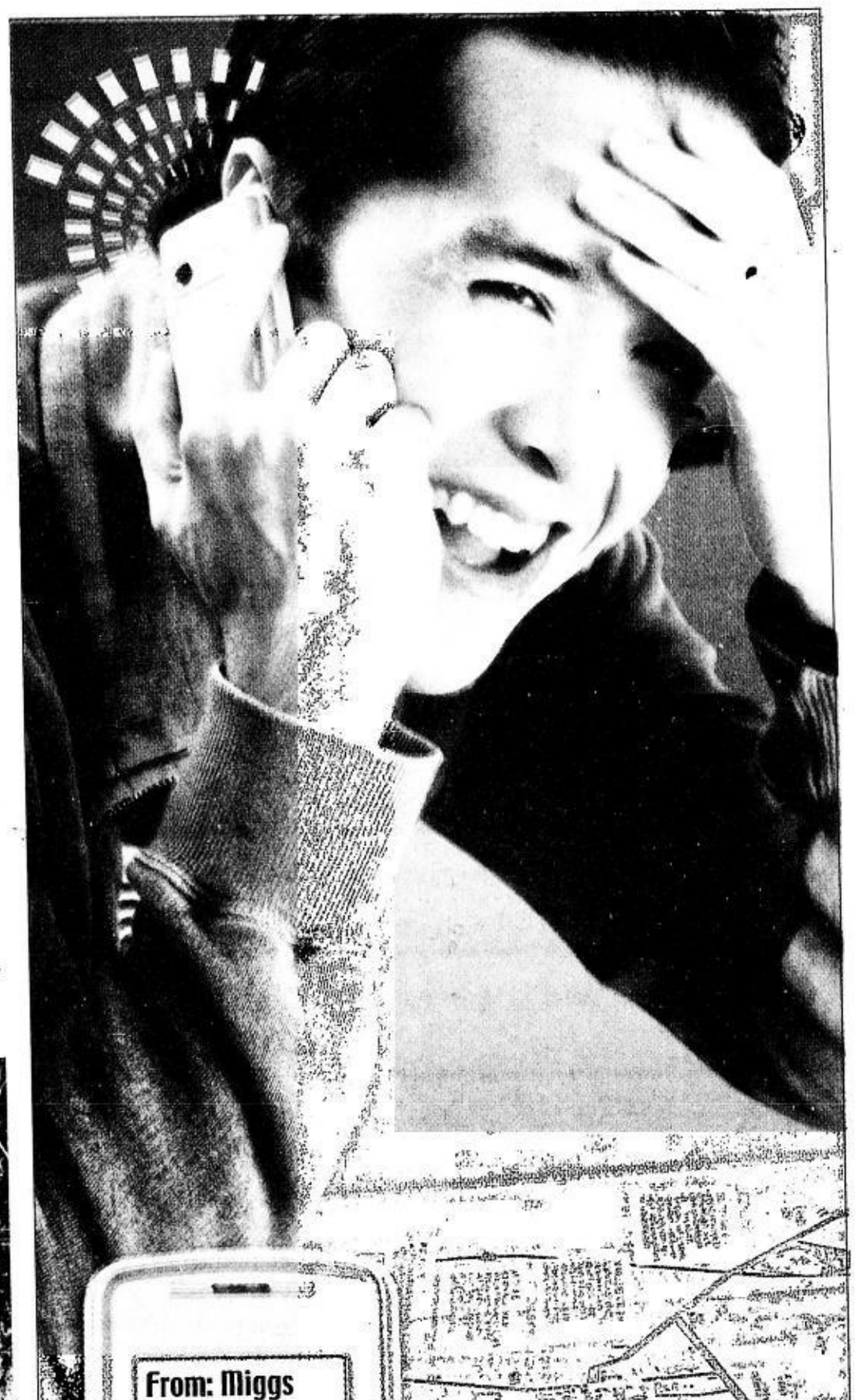
Rillon, who covers the Malacañang beat, was told to go to the event because the photographer assigned to do the job got sick. Her account of how she took the winning shot follows:

"The assignments I was given in my first six months at the INQUIRER were the roving and Malacañang beats. In all my years as a working photojournalist, I had rarely been assigned to cover sports since it was usually given to men. I never thought much about this because shooting hard news is my first love.

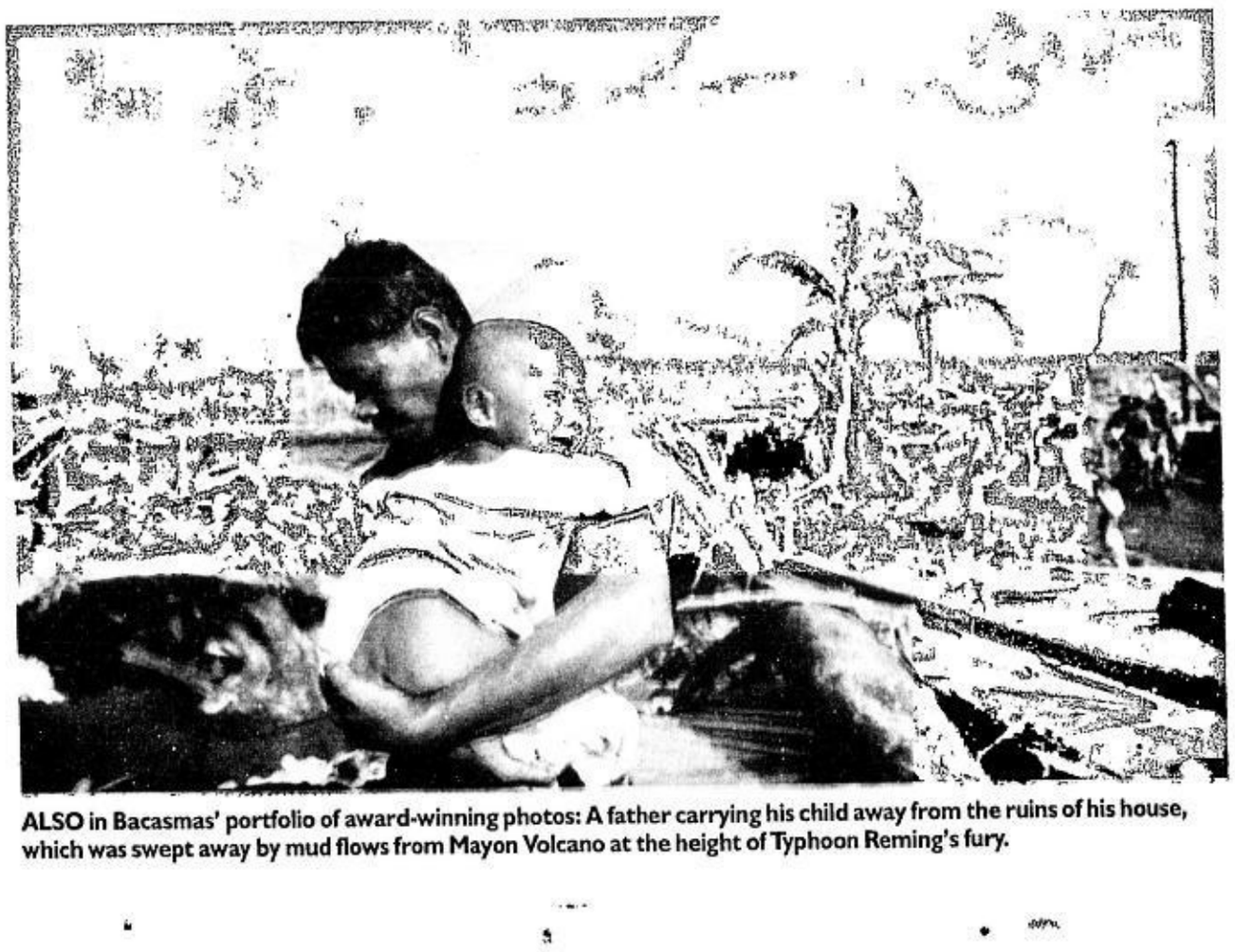
"I had always been interested in gymnastics. When I was younger, I would watch Svetlana Boginskaya and Dmitri Bilozerchev live. They were a sight to behold. The SEA Games was a chance to see and shoot the best players in the region, so I volunteered to go. I was worried how I could take a decent photo as the lighting wasn't very good and I had no 300 mm lens. I came before the start of the floor exercise and sat on the sidelines at floor level. But the angle was bad since all the advertisements, the people and the seats in the background overwhelmed the athlete in the frame. The only solution was to go up—in the upper seats or the rafters. So I hied off to the upper seats and, voila! No more distracting elements, just the pure solid color of the mat and the gymnast. I practiced taking shots of some of the foreign athletes so I would be ready when it was Filipino gymnast Danica Calapatan's turn. Gymnastics events are minefields for great action shots.

"Back in the office, I wondered if I had enough shots because the routines were short most of the time.

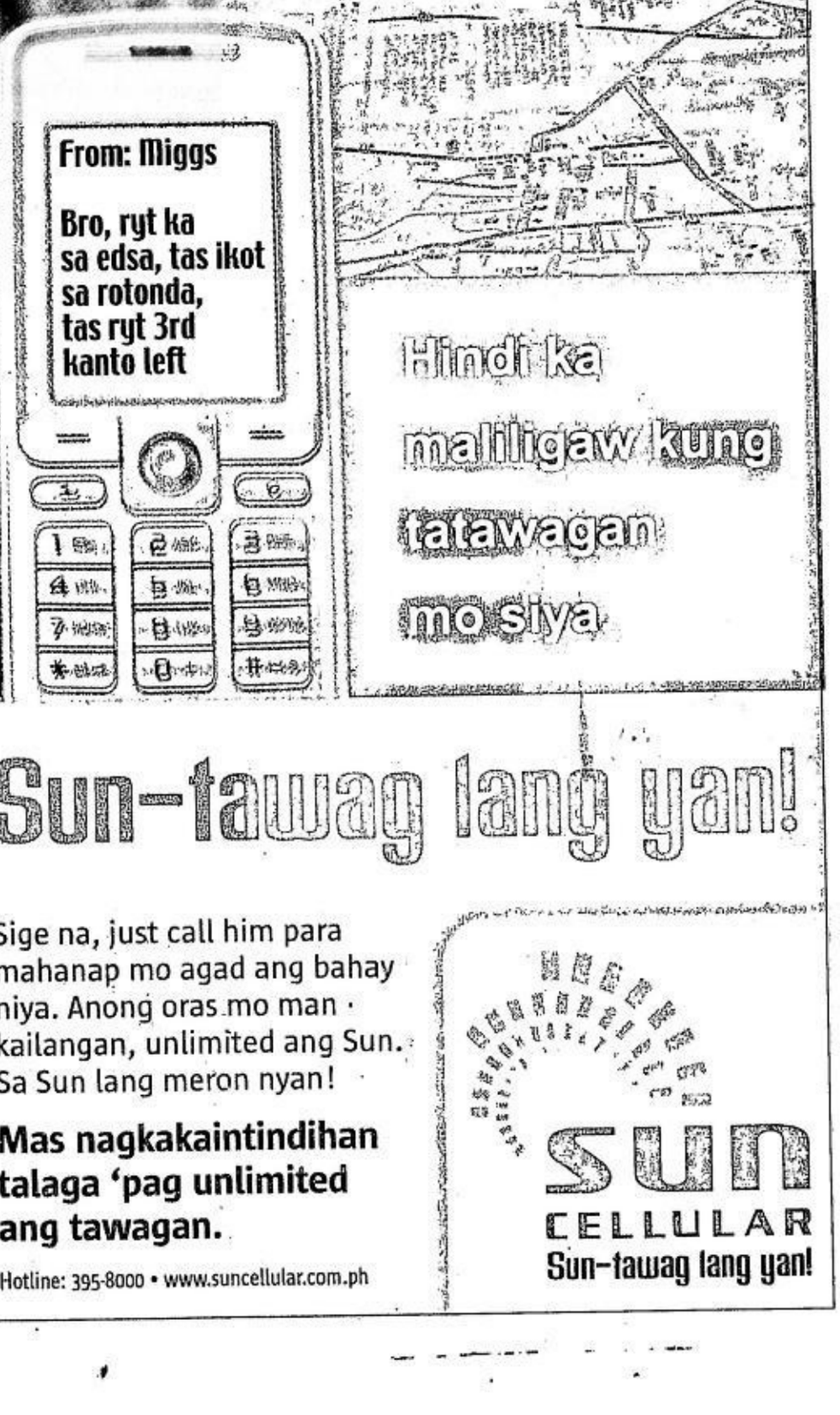
I chose around three frames I liked. One raw frame stood out, a seemingly headless body of Calapatan. Sometimes, when your eyes get tired from checking through so many frames, it helps to seek a second opinion from a colleague. I asked Rodel Rotoni what he liked best and he pointed to the one I thought was good enough. The next day, that photo came out, a small one in black and white, and in the inside pages. It didn't matter. I was happy they used it."



A SNAPSHOT of an Ilocano quenching his thirst at the bottom of Anuplig falls won for Edwin Bacasmas an award during the Seven Days in Ilocos photo safari.



ALSO in Bacasmas' portfolio of award-winning photos: A father carrying his child away from the ruins of his house, which was swept away by mud flows from Mayon Volcano at the height of Typhoon Reming's fury.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

No other newspaper reaches more readers than the Philippine Daily Inquirer. That's why we're number 1 in Mega Manila.

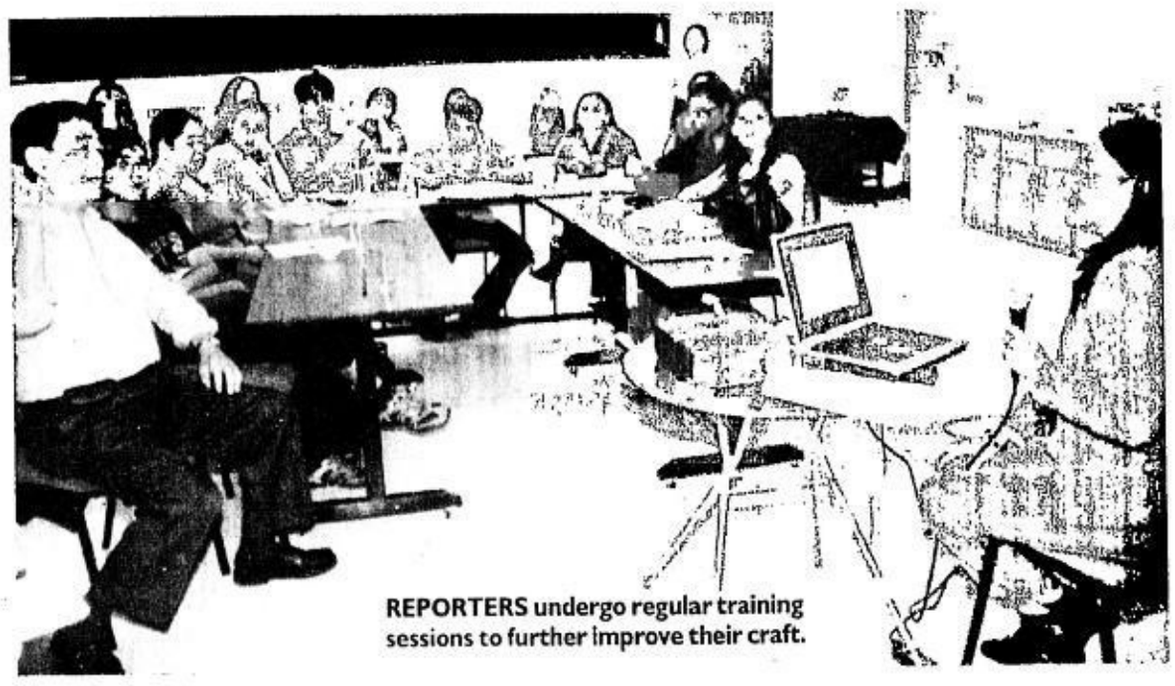
PDI	MB	PS
48.73%	46.63%	42.97%

Nielsen Media Index Wave 1 2007 Figures. Among broadsheet readers yesterday.

The 'fearless' has 417 agents of change

BETH ANDRES of the Advertising department prepares to throw a ball during a bowling tournament, one of the sports activities undertaken by the company for its employees every year. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Connie Kalagayan
Corporate affairs head



REPORTERS undergo regular training sessions to further improve their craft.

HOW DID THE "FEARless" INQUIRER become an agent of change? There are about 417 ways.

When I say that, I am referring to the 417 people who work for the Philippine Daily Inquirer: Men and women who set out to shake and move the nation, change the norms and be the lead innovators in newspaper publishing in our country.

But each of those reasons make a story too long to tell in one article, so I'd like to dwell on just two.

Leadership excellence

The INQUIRER has maintained journalistic excellence in the industry with over 200 awards. For six consecutive Media Index studies of Nielsen, the INQUIRER has been the most read broadsheet in the country.

The most recent Nielsen study showed that the INQUIRER was the choice of 54 percent of respondents who said they had read a broadsheet the day before. Manila Bulletin came in second with 47 percent and the Philippine Star came in last with 42 percent. The survey also pegged the estimated number of yesterday readers with the INQUIRER at 1.47 million, Manila Bulletin, 1.27 million and Philippine Star at 1.15 million.

Advocacy, social causes

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez once told a group of students that adhering to advocacies and corporate social responsibilities is like giving away gifts. You do not go out of your way to give scraps or recycled gifts to your loved ones. You spend for them. You also do not expect anything in return, just the satisfaction of knowing that you've done enough. If what we've done influences others to do the same, then the advocacy is all worth it.

In the INQUIRER, we invest in giving back to the community, particularly the youth. We create opportunities and offer solutions to social ills.

The INQUIRER defines its advocacy as "Everything We Do." It addresses four important aspects in corporate social responsibility:

- Customer value (bringing value to its readers as well as listening to what they want);
- Responsible leadership (effecting change from top to bottom through leadership by example);
- Social impact (enabling empowerment and stirring social awareness); and
- Economic impact (contributing to the growth of the economy and creating jobs and livelihood).

In all the time I have been with the INQUIRER, I saw how every little thing we do creates an impact. It might sound quite romantic, but it has actually moved our readers to do something in their own little way. It shook the politicians from their slumber and opened the eyes of the cynical.

This is how we became an agent of change. We set the agenda. We raise questions. We alert people about social problems.

And then we create advocacies as a potential solution; we implement sustainable programs that make a difference.

When we launched the INQUIRER Read-Along *(see story on Page N1)* this year, we were only thinking small but dreaming big. Children had been found to be reading less and playing with more gadgets instead.

If we want to make this country great again, we need an intelligent society that thinks critically and is more socially conscious. We wanted to bring back the love and habit of reading to children. We invited celebrities to read their favorite story books to the children, and share reading tips within the confines of the INQUIRER library.

Before we knew it, NGO's, corporations and institutions started to lend support to the project. From the confines of the library, we held our first off-site Read Along at the National Bookstore in Shangri-La. The next one was in Baguio City with US Ambassador Kristie Kenney as our guest reader. Then we had one in posh Rockwell and lately, the NBS Quezon Avenue branch.

Recently, the INQUIRER president received a book donation from Ms. Socorro Ramos of National Bookstore. These are resources that were not part of the initial plan. Volunteers and corporate institutions offered their support because they believe in our cause.

The children and parents who have participated in the Read-Along sessions kept coming back while new participants keep coming in. Words of encouragement and praise from every sector of society sustain our passion to inspire action for our country's uplift.

Apart from the Read-Along, the INQUIRER continues its long-term environmental program, the newspaper drive where newspapers donated from all schools, offices and homes are recycled to save trees from being axed.

We empower the youth with regular journalism workshops and school tours.

We support our partners, the newsboys and news dealers, with educational scholarships, wellness programs, medical missions and insurance packages. We hone the skills of future journalists by offering scholarships and on-the-job training for select journalism students.

We sustain our partnerships with the League of Corporate Foundations, Children's Hour, Habitat for Humanity, World Wildlife Fund, Hands On Manila and the Philippine Business for Social Progress .

We live in a world where there is plenty of procrastination, but I have seen enough to prove that "we are the change that we want to see in the world."

This is what we have been doing in the INQUIRER for the past 22 years. Making a difference in the lives of Filipinos.

TREATING street children to a party during the holidays has become an annual fare for the company and its employees. NIÑO ORBETA

Employer with a big heart ...

From page T4

Agreement negotiations in a record time of five meetings, when it normally takes a couple of months to reach an accord.

Passion, commitment

Being an INQUIRER employee can be a fulfilling experience, but it takes commitment and passion. Our tried and true employees are never lacking in these two requirements.

Throughout the past 22 years, the INQUIRER employees have continuously given their commitment in putting out the best newspaper possible.

The editorial group strives to reinvent the newspaper every single day while the business group pulls out all the stops in providing efficient business support to keep things seamlessly together.

The journey toward our vision to be the dominant, most respected and influential media organization for Filipinos here and abroad is not a walk in the park. Yet, with tried and true employees, it is definitely not out of reach.

Employer with a big heart, employees with a big drive

By Shirman Tan
HR management services head

AT 22 YEARS, THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INquirer still prides itself as the No. 1 broadsheet in the country. Hence the slogan "tried and true and still number 1." In the words of our very own chair, Ms Marixi Prieto, "our climb to the top was difficult but exciting."

The last 22 years saw the INQUIRER crusading against a dictator, struggling through the Asian crisis, weathering coup attempts, and surviving ad boycotts among others. Despite all these, the INQUIRER still emerged at the top of the heap. This feat could have only been accomplished because of the people behind it.

The slogan "tried and true" applies just as much to the INQUIRER employees. Consider these: We have gone through multiple lawsuits, several changes in management, redundancy programs, unsuccessful business ventures, cost-cutting measures and some highly charged collective bargaining agreement (CBA) negotiations.

SANDY ROMUALDEZ talks to one of the street children during the Christmas treat by the company.

Our pioneer employees, those who have been with the INQUIRER since the first issue came out on Dec. 9, 1985, have fond memories about how the paper has come a long way. They spoke of their old office in Port Area, Manila, which resembled a warehouse more than it did a publications office. Back then, they shared tables in cramped spaces, received salaries in bills and coins, and churned out memos and reports on conventional typewriters.

But after all, being a tried and true INQUIRER employee means working hard and having fun doing it. And what makes working in the INQUIRER fun like letting a kid with a sweet tooth run loose in a candy store?

Endless opportunities

For one, endless opportunities abound: Opportunities for skills and personality development through various training programs, programs like the 7 Habits for Highly Effective People, and team-building and leadership seminars given on a regular basis. Employees also attend external specialized skill courses that help them enhance their effectiveness in their jobs.

Not only are employees given the chance to improve their skills, but also the prospects of learning different arts and crafts. The opportunity to pursue different hobbies is also limitless. Employees join clubs and activities that suit their interests. These include photography, arts and crafts, running, cycling and singing, among others.

Sports-minded

For the sports-minded, particularly basketball, badminton and bowling enthusiasts, annual competitions are also held. Whether it is your first time to shoot hoops, swing a racquet or roll a bowling ball, you can actually make a "career" out of these interests and are always welcome to join our fun-filled sports tournaments.

Even working mothers in the INQUIRER have something to smile about. The INQUIRER has a Day Care Center where they can leave their tots while they go about with their jobs.

The INQUIRER also never misses an opportunity to recognize the achievements of its employees. Every quarter, employees with outstanding achievements are given due recognition (from perfect attendance to special citations; from the most outstanding drivers to most outstanding branch managers) during twice-a-year recognition programs with the awards given by no less than the president herself.

Every December, the Employee Service Award also recognizes workers who have rendered 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service in the INQUIRER.

More recently, the INQUIRER made history by finishing its Collective Bargaining

EMPLOYER/T3

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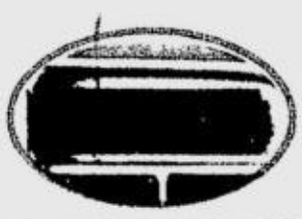
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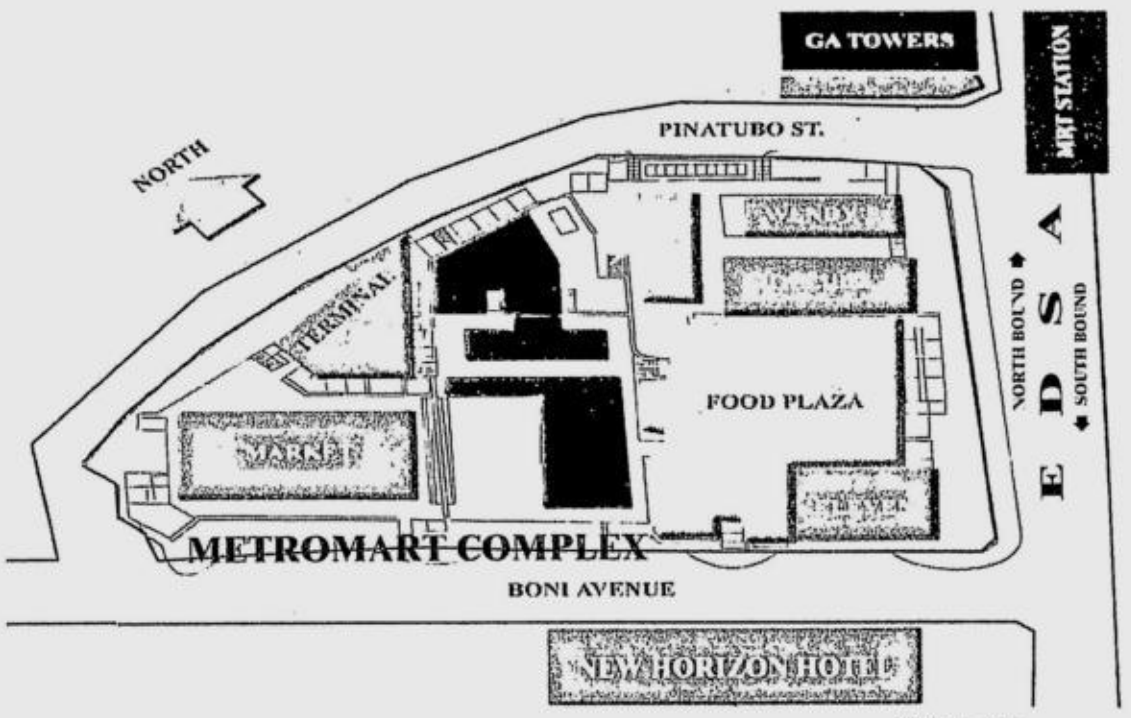
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION
7/F One Corporate Plaza Cond., 845 A. Arnaiz Ave. Legazpi Vill., Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City Tel. No. 817-0771

PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE



Vicinity Map

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR), is offering for sale in cash or installment the property described below:

Description	**: Commercial Complex**
Area	**: 7,428.0 square meters**
Address	**: Along EDSA cor. Boni Avenue and Pinatubo Sts., Mandaluyong City**
Floor Price	**: P 426,977,000.00**
Terms of Sale	**: Cash**

1. The sale of the property shall be on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 at the following address.

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on December 19, 2007, Wednesday at 2:00PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00PM on January 18, 2008, Friday.
6. The property is available for inspection to all bidders during business days and hours from Mondays to Fridays.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 / 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Assistant Project Head, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:

(Sgd.) **E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV**
Chairman

(PDI–Dec. 8, 9 & 10, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION
7/F One Corporate Plaza Cond., 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Legazpi Vill., Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City Tel. No. 817-0771

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR) is offering for sale the properties described below:

OFFICE CONDOMINIUM (ENTIRE 7TH FLOOR)

	PROPERTY/LOCATION	AREA	DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
1	**ONE CORPORATE PLAZA** 7th/F, OCP, 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City	987.75 sq.m.	Condominium (Office Space ONLY, excluding furniture & fixtures)	44,449,000.00

INDUSTRIAL/ RESIDENTIAL LOTS:

1	**LAGUNA PROPERTY** Km. 71, Brgy. San Andres, Alaminos, Laguna	17,394 sq.m.	Industrial Land	8,007,600.00
2	**DAVAO PROPERTY** R. Castillo St., Brgy. Agdao, Davao City	3,696 sq.m.	Light Industrial Land	6,914,000.00
3	**BULACAN PROPERTY** Purok 4, Brgy. Santissima Trinidad, Malolos City, Bulacan	3,397 sq.m.	Residential Land	2,718,000.00
4	**BOHOL PROPERTY** Brgy. Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	551 sq.m.	Residential Lots (2 adjoining lots)	1,653,000.00
5	**CABANATUAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Kalikid Sur, (Cabu), Cabanatuan City	1,335 sq.m.	Residential Land	304,000.00
6	**BACOLOD PROPERTY** Pag-asa St. Extension, Brgy. Tangub, Bacolod	220 sq.m.	Residential Land	616,000.00
7	**PANGASINAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Buenlag, Binmaley, Pangasinan	1,506 sq.m.	Residential Land	1,092,000.00

Conditions:
1. Winning bidders shall assume responsibility of paying any and/or all taxes relative to the sale or transfer of the properties.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address:

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on December 19, 2007, Wednesday at 10:00 AM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 10:00 AM on Friday, January 18, 2008.
6. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property/ies before submitting their bids.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 or 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Officer-in-Charge, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:

(Sgd.) **E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV**
Chairman

(PDI–Dec. 8, 9 & 10, 2007)

UNFPA

INVITATION TO BID

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) would like to invite suppliers and providers for the following goods:

Desktop computer **30 units**	**Preferred brands: IBM / Dell / Lenovo / HP with at least the following specs:** Intel Core Family Processor at 2GHz - small form factor 512MB RAM 80GB 7200rpm SATA Hard Disk Drive 64MB built-in AGP graphics card Built-in Audio System Integrated 10/100 Ethernet Connectivity CD-RW/DVD ROM Combo drive and 1.44 MB FDD 4 or 6 USB 2.0, parallel, and serial ports 15" CRT monitor Optical mouse, keyboard and speaker Genuine Windows XP Professional SP2 with at least a 1-year Licensed Anti-virus preferably Symantec/ Norton or Trendmicro 3 years warranty
Office Productivity Software **30 pcs**	**MS-Office for the mentioned PCs with the following specs:** OEM with MS-Word, Ms-Excel, MS-Powerpoint
Printer **30 pcs**	**InkJet Printer -** Basic Color

All prices should be free from all duties and taxes and should be valid for the next six (6) months.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following documents:
- Company profile
- Registration papers (SEC with Articles of Incorporation, DTI, Mayor's Permit, VAT, etc.)
- List of branches or distribution network or service centers
- Track record in supplying to institutional clients in huge volumes
- Proposed methodology for providing goods specifically indicating procedures, delivery/response time, invoicing, payment requirements, etc.
- Price list of goods **under a separate sealed envelope**

UNFPA does not and cannot guarantee nor commit any volume within the 6-month validity of the price.

Deadline for the submission of bids is on **21 December 2007 at 5:00 p.m.** All bids should be addressed to:

United Nations Population Fund
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, 1226 Makati City
Tel. No. (63-2) 901-0313 Fax No. (63-2) 901-0348

UNFPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer. UNFPA assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd.) **Reginald Malapit**
Administrative and Finance Associate

(PDI–Dec. 9, 2007)

RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC.
BY-PASS ROAD, SILANG, CAVITE

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT RGCI SHARES AT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC. (RGCI) WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT SHARES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS, FOR NON-PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS:

A-0609	A-0338	A-1636	A-1745	A-1446	A-1880	A-0775	A-0208
A-0029	A-0874	A-0478	A-0991	A-0011	A-0066	A-1761	A-0825
A-1000	A-0487	A-0530	A-1717	A-0706	A-0914	A-0721	A-0283
A-0179	A-0164	A-0222	A-0614	A-1724	A-1276	A-1408	A-1749
A-0239	A-0131	A-1463	A-1702	A-0078	A-0365	A-1168	A-0736
A-1677	A-0310	A-0309	A-0308	A-1467	A-0024	A-1789	A-1533
A-0384	A-1228	A-1682	A-0432	A-0519	A-1081	A-1162	A-0542
A-0347	A-0435	A-0105	B-0456	B-1889	B-0408	B-0226	B-0124
B-0015	B-0438	C-0152	C-0173	C-0282	C-0312	C-0095	C-0039
C-0284	C-0028	C-0310	C-0161	C-0254			

THE AUCTION DATE IS SET ON DECEMBER 12, 2007 AT 10:00 A.M., AT THE TEE PAVILION, RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC., SILANG, CAVITE. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROLANDO G. BORJA**
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PDI - Dec. 9, 2007)

Supply Chain

SUPPLY CHAIN CONSULTING PHILIPPINES, INC.

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LOTS – CEBU MA. LUISA SUBD.
LOTS – MUNTINLUPA @ P4T/sqm
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600sqm COMML AREA with 2 seperate bldg very nr Edsa / Farmers 25M Call 7210483-Josie

COMML PARANG ELEM SCHL 2BR 09209039193 CONI 8138420 8133568 8186820

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•AYALA GREENFIELD 725sqm Ph1 Fairway View cor

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•PROJ. 6 #58Rd 3-Coml/Resl 9219967/0255 /09178865431

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2M CONDO&UP 2&3BR
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(DRESSED)UNIT 0920-2430387

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CONDO CLASICA TWR MAKATI 113SQ 2BR FF 8138420 8133568 8186820 6330634

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CONDO OLYMPHIC HTS LIBIS 54SQ 1BR FF 8133568 8138420 8186820 6330634

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RESIDENCES @ GREENBELT 2br,119sqm, 22/f P15m>P14m
ASIA TOWER @ GREENBELT FF corner w/pkg P5.8m>P5.6m
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CARS

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1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7225647/48

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORBERTO TAN was extrajudicially settled by heirs as per Doc. No. 015; Page No. 4; Book No. XXVI; Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Jose V. Marcella of Pasig City.
(PDI-Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on December 15, 2007 at 9:00 am.Including all items pawned up to July, 2007 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-November 11, 2007)

G.Y. Lopez Pawnshop & Jewelry Store Inc. UG 35 Citiland 8 Condo. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City will hold an Aution Sale on December 15, 2007 at 9:00 AM Including All Items Pawned From June to July, 2007 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-December 9, 2007)

Malanday-Filipinas Pawnshop Malanday Val. City, All Unredeemed Pledges of JUN & JUL 2007, Will be Auctioned on DEC. 21, 1:00p.m. Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI DEC. 09, 2007)

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M&R Bldg. Tabing-Ilog Marilao, Bul All unredeemed pledges of Jun 2007 will be auctioned on Dec. 21, 9:00 a.m. Lanuza & Sons-auctioneer
(PDI-Dec. 09, 2007)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Allw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of June 2007 willl be Auctioned on DEC 21, 10:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- Dec. 09, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Spouses Generoso del Rosario and Rufina Cacha del Rosario was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 829 Page 166 Book X Series 2007 before Notary Public Atty Milagros Ramin-francia of Quezon City.
PDI-Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SUSANNE Y. SANTOS was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 64, Page No. 14, Book No. XXI, Series of 2007 under Notary Public Ephraim L. Arcilla of Makati. (Nov.25,Dec.2&9,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NATIVIDAD C. CUEVAS who died on June 9 2007, was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 84 Page 18 Book XIII Series of 2007 under Notary Public of Carlito P. Egana of Makati City (PDI- Dec. 2, 9, 16, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ILDEFONSO B. SANTOS JR. was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#384 Page#78 Book#554 Series of 2007 before Atty. Lucila M. Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City
(PDI-Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PURITA ZAFRA-IBASETA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as Per Doc No. 90 Page No. 19 Book No. XXV Series of 2007 By Notary Public Atty.Eleonor T. Hernandez of Muntinlupa City M.M.(PDI-Dec 9,16, & 23,07)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS C. BANOT was extrajudicially settled By the heirs as per Doc. No. 75; Page No. 14 Book No. 10; Series of 2007 By Notary Public Atty. Arthuro A. Cabides of City of Manila
(PDI-Dec. 9,16,23,2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOSS STOCK CERT. No.4498 1,056 shares Name: Raymond Severo and/or Phil. Racing Club, Inc. (PDI-Nov 25, Dec 2 & 9 '07)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that A. Soriano Corp. Stock Cert. Nos. A00040192 A00040775 A00078780 A00097655 A00116037 with 8,887 total shares registered to Imelda Agri Farms Co. Inc. was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI-Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2007

PERSONAL

• COUNSELING • 09175325705

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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SALES AGENT BAYANTEL WIRELESS LANDLINE 3815082 / 0922-9589160

Social Housing Finance Corporation
a subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

NOTICE TO THE CMP STAKEHOLDERS

The Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) advises all CMP Stakeholders and the public at large that effective immediately the Collection Agreement is hereby revised as follows:

"COLLECTION AGREEMENT
(revised. 10.25.07)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Agreement made and entered into by and between:

The SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (SHFC), a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Philippine laws, with principal office at 5th Floor, Banco de Oro Plaza 8737 Paseo De Roxas Avenue, Makati City , represented herein by its President, Atty. Fermin T. Arzaga , hereinafter referred to as the SHFC;

-and-

_____Homeowner's Association Incorporated, represented herein by its President _____hereinafter referred to as the Community Association.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, under its charter the NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC) a government corporation duly created by Presidential Decree No.1267,as amended by Executive Order No.90,dated December 17,1986 was mandated to develop a special type of homebuyer's loan financing known as "Community Mortgage Program" hereinafter referred to as CMP to cater to the housing needs of the low-income groups;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No.272 dated January 20, 2004, the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) was created as a subsidiary of the NHMFC to perform the latter's powers and functions relating to the administration and management of the CMP, and was registered as a corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on June 21, 2005;

WHEREAS, the CMP calls for the organization of the loan beneficiaries into a Community Association (CA), duly registered with the appropriate government agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the CA hereby binds itself to collect from its member-beneficiaries hereinafter referred to as MB's, their monthly rentals/ amortizations and remit the same to SHFC, under the following terms and conditions:

1. COLLECTION
   1.1 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
   1.1.1. The CA shall collect all amortization payments of its MB's on due date. The monthly rentals/amortizations shall consist of principal, interest, insurance premiums and penalties (if any);
   1.1.2. If the amortization due falls on a non-working day, such amortization shall fall on the last working day before the due date.
   1.1.3. The CA shall likewise receive prepayments of amortization of loan, as well as excess payments and advance payments by the MB's on their accounts.
   1.1.4. The CA shall issue its own Official Receipts for all amounts received from its MB's. For monitoring and control purposes, the Community Mortgage Receipt (CMR), Remittance Report and Abstract of Collection corresponding to all amortization payments remitted by the CA to SHFC shall be posted on a designated place accessible for all the MB's for purposes of verification.
   1.1.5. The Officer or the representative of the CA assigned with the task of collection and remittance of payments shall be bonded by a surety company accredited by SHFC in the amount equivalent to the average monthly collections, with such bond to be always current and in favor of SHFC.
   1.1.6. The CA President and the representative/s of the CA assigned the task of Collection shall, before the release of the loan amount for the CMP project be required to attend a seminar to be conducted by SHFC on the pertinent rules and procedure regarding collection and remittance of amortization payments made by the MB's to the SHFC.
   1.2. SHFC
   1.2.1. The CA shall have the primary responsibility to collect from the MB's, however, this responsibility should not prejudice the authority of SHFC to accept or refuse direct payments from the MB's, as may be warranted by circumstances heretofore mentioned or for any other reasons similar thereto.
   1.2.2. The SHFC shall issue the Community Mortgage Receipts (CMR) corresponding to the payments remitted by the CA.
2. REMITTANCE OF COLLECTIONS
   The CA shall remit the total amount collected from its MB's either directly to SHFC or its regional office or desk offices or to any designated branches of the Land Bank of the Philippines nearest/convenient to the CA/MB's.
   Every payment by the CA should be accompanied with the Remittance Report, Abstract of Collection to be submitted to SHFC together with the photocopy of the CMR.
   Inability of the CA to collect association dues, taxes and all other fees from the MB's shall not in any way cause the delay in the remittance of collections due to SHFC.
   Delays or failure to remit collection shall be a ground for suspension or cancellation of this agreement after ten (10) days notice by SHFC to the CA.
3. PENALTIES
   In the event the CA fails to remit the collected amortization payment on time or on due date, any amount due to SHFC shall be subjected to a penalty of 1/15 of 1% of the total amount due, per day of delay, without need of demand.
4. COLLECTION FEE
   The CA shall be entitled to a collection/service fee equivalent to one-percent (1%) of the actual gross/total regular collection of the amortization deductible from the remittance to SHFC. However, the said collection /service fee shall not apply to full payment/lump sum amount deducted from the take-out proceeds as updating of arrearages of previously originated projects, and windfall payments as consideration for CA's property affected by government infrastructure projects.
   The CA may collect service fees from direct payments accepted by SHFC provided that the CA has complied with all the provisions of this agreement.
5. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS
   5.1. The CA shall keep individual records of all its MB's accounts for proper monitoring of all collection and payments made by them on their respective accounts. Likewise, it shall maintain records of the mother account, showing the total monthly rentals/amortization due and total monthly remittances made to SHFC.
   5.2. One year after the take out, the CA shall submit its Audited Annual Financial Statement/ Treasurer's Report to SHFC and every year thereafter, to be submitted within thirty (30) days after the end of the calendar year.
   5.3. These records shall be accessible to all MB's and properly turned over to the new set of officers in case there is a change of leadership which should be duly registered/reported with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), whichever is applicable.
   5.4. Failure to comply with the above requirements shall be a ground for SHFC to suspend the enforceability of the Collection Agreement. During the period of suspension, SHFC may accept direct payment from member-beneficiaries. The Accounts Management Department, Operations Group shall monitor compliance by the CA with above requirements and shall recommend/endorse to SHFC President the reactivation of the Collection Agreement.
6. CANCELLATION AND SUSPENSION OF COLLECTION AGREEMENT
   SHFC shall either suspend or cancel this Collection Agreement after giving ten (10) days notice to the CA based on any of the following grounds.
   a). Inefficient servicing of collection as reflected in unacceptably low collection efficiency and delays in servicing/remittance of collection.
   b). Unremitted collections
   c). Inactive CA officers
   d). negligence in collection during transition period towards new set of officers
   e). other similar grounds which resulted to low collection efficiency.
   SHFC shall then accept direct payments from MB's until SHFC lifts the suspension.
   In cases of internal conflicts between the CA officers and MB's, SHFC shall accept-in trust, until conflicts have been resolved, all direct payments from the MB's. However, full payments for the period shall not be considered in the computation of CER. Based on the final resolution by SHFC and CA or the authorized body that has jurisdiction over the conflict/ issue, SHFC shall either reactivate or terminate this agreement with finality and accordingly inform the CA of the action taken by SHFC.
7. OTHER PROVISIONS
   7.1 In case of default for three (3) consecutive months in the payment of the amortization share of any member-borrower, the CA shall undertake to find the qualified substitute member-borrower. The substitution shall only become effective and enforceable upon approval by SHFC.
   7.2. SHFC has the right to send its representative to conduct audit/examination of all the records of the CA at any time during business hours of the day.
   7.3. The CA shall adhere to the provision of Corporate Circulars that the SHFC may issue from time to time pertaining to the "Community Mortgage Program."
8. TERMINATION
   This agreement shall be effective from the date hereof until suspended or terminated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand this _____day of _____ at Makati, Metro Manila.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:
By:
_____ _____

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION:
By:
_____
ATTY. FERMIN T. ARZAGA
President

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:
_____ _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
_____) S.S.

BEFORE ME, this _____ day of _____ personally appeared:

NAME | CTC.NO. | DATE/PLACE OF ISSUE

known to me to be the same official who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledge to me that the same is their free act and deed, as well as the free act and deed of the Corporations they represent. This document consisting of six (6) pages, including this page wherein the acknowledgement is written, refers to COLLECTION AGREEMENT and the same is duly signed by its parties and their instrumental witnesses on all pages hereof.

This Collection Agreement was presented to me by _____ who exhibited (government issued I.D. No. or CTC No.) _____ issued on at _____, personally known to me who affirmed under oath that he personally know the principal parties and the Collection Agreement was signed by them.

IN MY TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal at the place and on the date first above-mentioned.

NOTARY PUBLIC

Doc. No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of _____

(Sgd.) MR. EDUARDO T. MANICIO
Executive Vice President

(PDI–December 9, 2007)

Be a part of our team, franchiser, outlet, food cart owner & distributor, earn up to 50,000 a month the latest trend in distributing basic consumer goods. Purefoods, San Miguel, Sierra Madre, Goldilocks, Boston & a lot more! No mark up!!
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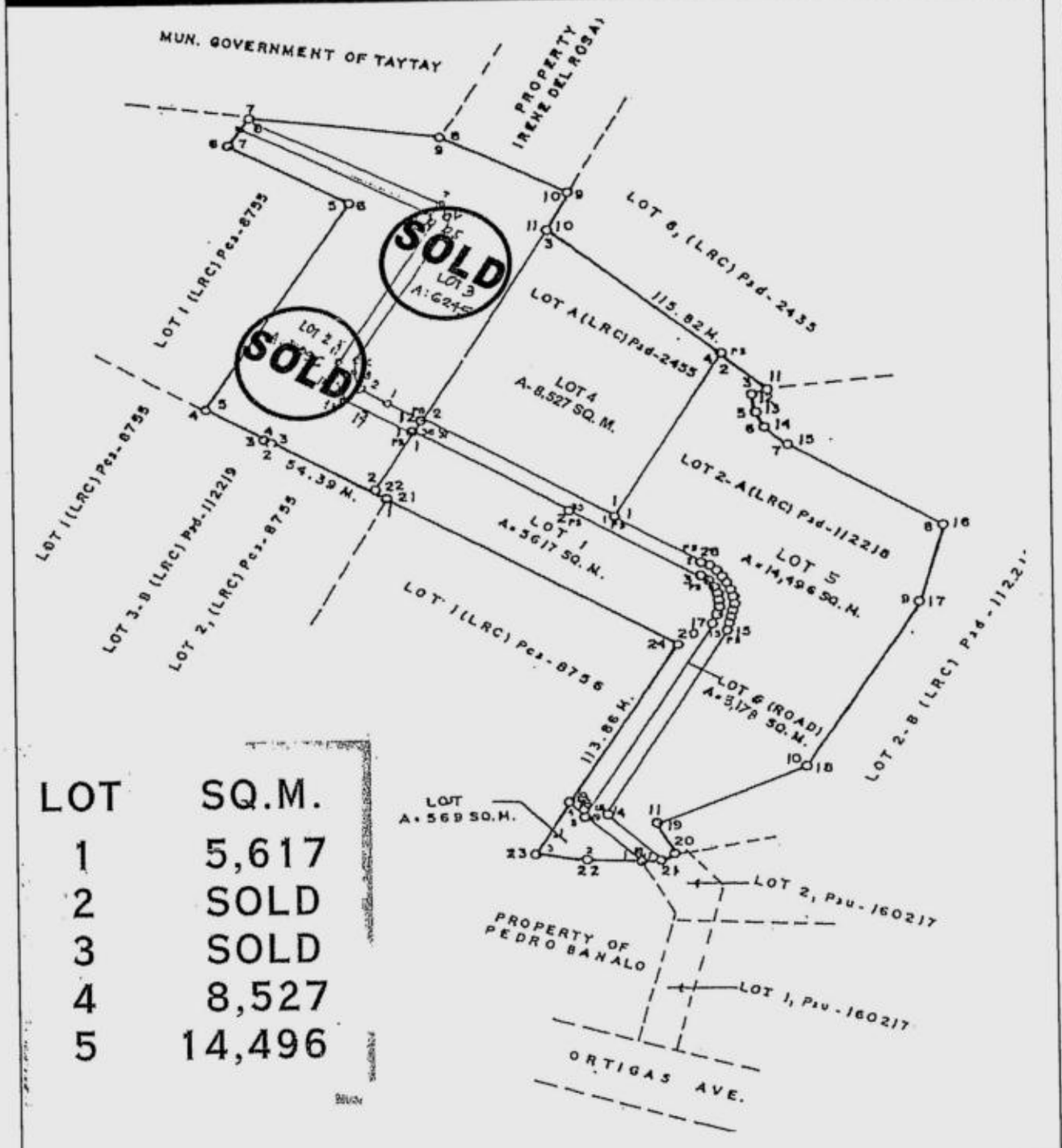

LOT	SQ.M.
1	5,617
2	SOLD
3	SOLD
4	8,527
5	14,496

PRIME PROPERTY FOR INVESTMENT

For Inquiries Contact:
Ms. Menchie F. Pena
Tel Nos. 817-3919 OR 729-6664 TO 65 LOC. 144
Fax No. 729-6655
Email Address: hrmanager@singermanila.com.ph

KAYTIKLING REALTY CORP.

FORECLOSED PROPERTIES FOR SALE @ *70% OFF*

LOCATION	SQ. M.	APP. VALUE	VALUE AT 70% OFF
METRO MANILA			
L-8 M. DE GALICIA ST. BRGY.MAYSAN, VALENZUELA CITY	600	1,200,000	360,000
L6 B7 ROAD LOT 5 GOLDEN ACRES SUBD.TALON V, LAS PIÑAS CITY	240	600,000	180,000
		1,800,000	540,000
CENTRAL/NORTHERN LUZON			
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,819	1,819,000	545,700
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,810	1,991,000	597,300
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,599	1,599,000	479,700
		5,409,000	1,622,700
SOUTH LUZON			
L5 MALABAN SUR, CANDELARIA, QUEZON	1,979	594,000	178,200
L-59 E-2 BRGY. STA. MARIA, NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	20,000	600,000	180,000
L-3-E BRGY. STA. MARIA, NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	10,000	350,000	105,000
		1,544,000	463,200
CAGAYAN VALLEY			
PADASION, SANTIAGO, ISABELA	774	2,462,000	738,600
BARRIO MARIA CLARA, DIFFUN, QUIRINO	4,961	993,000	297,900
BARRIO PATUL, SANTIAGO, ISABELA	500	1,000,000	300,000
		4,455,000	1,336,500
WEST VISAYAS			
L531D-2 BO. SUM-AG, DIST., BACOLOD CITY	500	350,000	105,000
L-2444A-3 BO. HUNOD-HUNOD ESCALANTE, BAC.	600	360,000	108,000
L10-B POB. BINALBAGAN, NEG. OCC.	200	295,000	88,500
L-270 KABANKALAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	24,484	368,000	110,400
		1,373,000	411,900
EAST VISAYAS			
LT.3368 BO. MARASBARAS, TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE	2,872	2,300,000	690,000
		2,300,000	690,000
NORTH MINDANAO			
KATIPUNAN RD. BRGY. STA.ISABELA, DIPOLOG CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	149.25	150,000	45,000
POBLACION BUUG, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	200	80,000	24,000
		230,000	69,000
SOUTH MINDANAO			
JUPITER ST. BO. KAKAR, COTABATO CITY	500	520,000	156,000
BO. KAKAR, COTABATO CITY	400	258,000	77,400
BO. LAGUILAYAN, ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT	2,420	484,000	145,200
		1,262,000	378,600
TOTAL		18,373,000	

For Inquires Contact:

Ms. Menchie F. Peña
Tel: 817-3919 or 729-6664 to 65 loc 144
Email Address:cfpena@singermanila.com.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT

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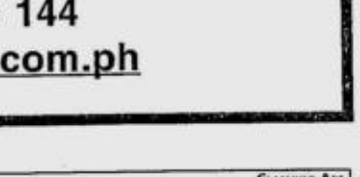

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (PDIC)
ASIATRUST BANK (ATB)
UNITED OVERSEAS BANK - PHILIPPINES (UOBP)

INVITATION TO BID

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), Asiatrust Bank (ATB) and United Overseas Bank - Philippines (UOBP) (collectively the "Owners") invite interested direct buyers to bid for the following property on an "as-is-where-is" basis.

Property Description	Industrial lot with improvements (building, machineries & equipment)
Location	Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Total Area	2 contiguous lots with total area of 21,750 sq.m. covered by TCT No. T-896596 & T-896597
Minimum Bid Price	P120,000,000.00
	Price subject to change without prior notice

General Guidelines

1. Sealed offers must be submitted, together with 10% bid deposit (based on offer), on December 14, 2007 up to 9:00 a.m. in the form of Manager's Check payable to Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation and addressed to:

   The Owners
   c/o Asset Management & Disposal Group
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

2. Terms of Payment:
   - All payments shall be in the form of Manager's Checks payable to Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
   - 10% bid deposit (based on offer) payable on December 14, 2007.
   - Payment of the 90% balance of the bid price, after application of the bid deposit, within fifteen (15) days after acceptance of Certificate of Award.
3. Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
4. Opening of sealed bids will be held at 9:00 a.m. on December 14, 2007 (Friday) at the Ground Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

   If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next business day at the same time and place aforementioned.
5. Bidding documents are available at the Asset Management and Disposal Group (AMDG) located at the 6th Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.
6. The Owners reserves the right to reject any or all offers and to accept such offers as may be considered advantageous to the Owners.
7. The bidding shall be governed and subject to the Conditions of Bid.

For inquiries, please contact Grace Cabrera at 811-5883; Ebenezer Lardizabal at 924-5655 or Arlene Firmeza at 841-4671.

(PDI - Dec. 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of San Fernando

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of San Fernando, Bukidnon, through its Bid and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested suppliers, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECTS To supply the following heavy equipments:

ITEMS / PARTICULARS	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET (Php)
1. 10 Wheelers Dump-Truck 2004-2005 model	2	2.8 Million
2. Low Bed Sell Loading (12 Wheelers)	1	900,000.00
3. 4x4 Pick-up (Brand New)	1	1.4 Million
Total Approved Budget Cost		Php 5.1 Million

Location San Fernando, Bukidnon
Brief Description As indicated above

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 10, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 12, 2007
3. Submission of letters of intent and application for eligibility	Dec. 21, 2007
4. Opening of Bids	Jan. 5, 2008, 10:00 A.M.
5. Bid Evaluation	Jan. 8, 2008
6. Post-Qualification	Jan. 15, 2008
7. Notice of Award	Jan. 18, 2008

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P3,500.00 to BAC Secretariat.

The Local Government Unit of San Fernando, Bukidnon reserves the right to review the qualification of a selected bidder. Subject to technical, financial and legal criteria, reject any or all bids, and waive any formality or defect therein.

The Local Government Unit of San Fernando, Bukidnon, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

(Sgd.) ENGR. BENJAMIN O. MANALO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – December 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

	ABC
1. Foodstuff	P 3,518,747.70
2. Medical Gases	4,367,243.40

Bid documents may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee. For details, please contact telephone no. 735-7144.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, opening of bids, evaluation, post-qualification and award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Schedule of Activities:

	Date/Time	Venue
Pre-Bid Conference	December 17, 2007 10:00 am	CMPS Office
Bid Opening	December 28,2007 10:00 am	Reception Room

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ELISEA S. MARQUEZ, MD, D.P.B.A.**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – December 9, 2007)

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GARAGE SALE

Dec. 8 to 15 except Sunday, 9:30AM-5:30PM
NIKKO, Zojirushi Houseware Products (Japan) & Maitre's Pressure Cooker (Brazil)
Great Bargains!!! 50% Less on Selected Items
Imported small household app'l and houseware products like, Airpots, Vacuum Bottles, Water Jugs, Coolers, Cutlery Sets, Kitchen Tools, BBQ Grillers, Lunch Jars, Plasticwares, etc.
Also available slightly used Dining tables w/ 10 chairs & w/ buffet table (design by Edgar Ramirez), Sofa's (1-seater & 2-seater), King size bed, Wall unit, and Range in A-1 condition. Also Brand new Panasonic TV
HURRY WHILE STOCK LAST!!!
1375 JMS Bldg. P. Ocampo Sr. St., Makati City
Tel. 899-3456/57/59

LEGAL SECRETARY
ACCOUNTING STAFF

* Female, CPA with experience on compensation and payroll

MAINTENANCE STAFF

* Male, single, at least 20 years old

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Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.
JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-14-34
Tel. Nos. 523-84-61 to 70
E-mail: olz@i-manila.com.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the following companies previously placed under conservatorship and/or receivership for cause by the Insurance Commission, are now due for liquidation, namely:

Insurance Company	Name & Address of Liquidator
1. Rico General Insurance Corporation	**Ms. Teresita P. Gutierrez** 408 A. Evekal Building 855 A. Arnaiz Avenue Makati City
2. Development Insurance & Surety Co.	**Atty. John A. Apatan** c/o Insurance Commission 1071 United Nations Avenue Ermita, Manila

Parties having claims against these companies are hereby notified to file their claims under oath not later than six (6) months from the date of the last publication of this notice on December 23, 2007, or until **June 23, 2008**, together with all supporting documents and/or relevant proofs detailing the character, basis and amount of each and every claim, directly with the appointed Liquidator either personally or by mail, for consideration in their eventual liquidation, pursuant to pertinent provisions of the Insurance Code, as amended. **CLAIMS FILED AFTER JUNE 23, 2008 SHALL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINING ASSETS, IF ANY, AFTER SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS SUBMITTED WITHIN THE SAID DEADLINE.**

EDUARDO T. MALINIS
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI--Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International, Inc.

Request for Submission of Grant Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project (PRISM) is seeking applications for a grant award intended for

Provision of Technical Assistance to Develop Private Practice Midwives' Facilities into PhilHealth-Accredited Birthing Homes: Expansion Phase

RFA 2007-03-03

PRISM is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

Grant funding of up to a total amount of PHP 8M will be awarded to qualified grant applicants in accordance with standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to Philippine-based and SEC-registered private health organizations or business group or management institution / consortium with extensive experience in providing technical assistance to FP service providers. Knowledge and experience working with the public sector is an advantage. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Applications (RFA) document.

The solicitation document will be released on **Monday, 03 December 2007**. Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request for copies of the full RFA document from **grants@prism.org.ph**. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from **http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/**. The closing date for the submission of application is **5:00pm, 27 December 2007**.

Grant Applicants' Conferences will be held at the following PRISM offices: **17 December 2007,** 9am at the PRISM Davao office 7/F Pryce Tower, Pryce Business Park, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City; **18 December 2007,** 9am at the PRISM Cebu office Gold Zeal, 2F Cebu Holdings Center, Cebu Business Park, Cardinal Rosales Ave., Cebu City; **21 December 2007,** 9am at the PRISM Manila office 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

For further details, please contact Glen de Castro at this e-mail address **gdecastro@prism.org.ph**

(PDI-Dec. 2 & 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Diliman, Quezon city

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

PROJECT NO. 1

DESCRIPTION	:	**SUPPLY OF IT EQUIPMENT**
LOCATION	:	**Commission on Human Rights U.P. Complex, SAAC Building Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City**
APPROVED BUDGET	:	**P1,496,000.00 (Regular Capital Outlay)**
PRE-BID CONFERENCE	:	**December 21, 2007, 2:00 p.m. Conference Room**
SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS	:	**January 11, 2008, 10:00 a.m. CHR Conference Room**
SPECIFICATION	:	

No. of Units	Description
One (1)	Server Machine
One (1)	Server Machine
One (1)	500 GB cap. USB 2.0 Interface External Hard drive
Nineteen (19)	Small Form Factor PC With built-in power supply
Ten (10)	Desktop PC
Two (2)	Desktop PC
Nineteen (19)	Printer, Fax, Scanner and Copier (all-in-one)
Sixteen (16)	Win XP Professional OEM License (Service Pack 2)

Bidding Documents shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS **(Php 1,000.00).** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

PROJECT NO. 2

DESCRIPTION	:	**SUPPLY OF IT EQUIPMENT**
LOCATION	:	**U.P. Complex, SAAC Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**
APPROVED BUDGET	:	**Php 820,000.00 (EJK Fund)**

(PDI - Dec. 9 & 16, 2007)

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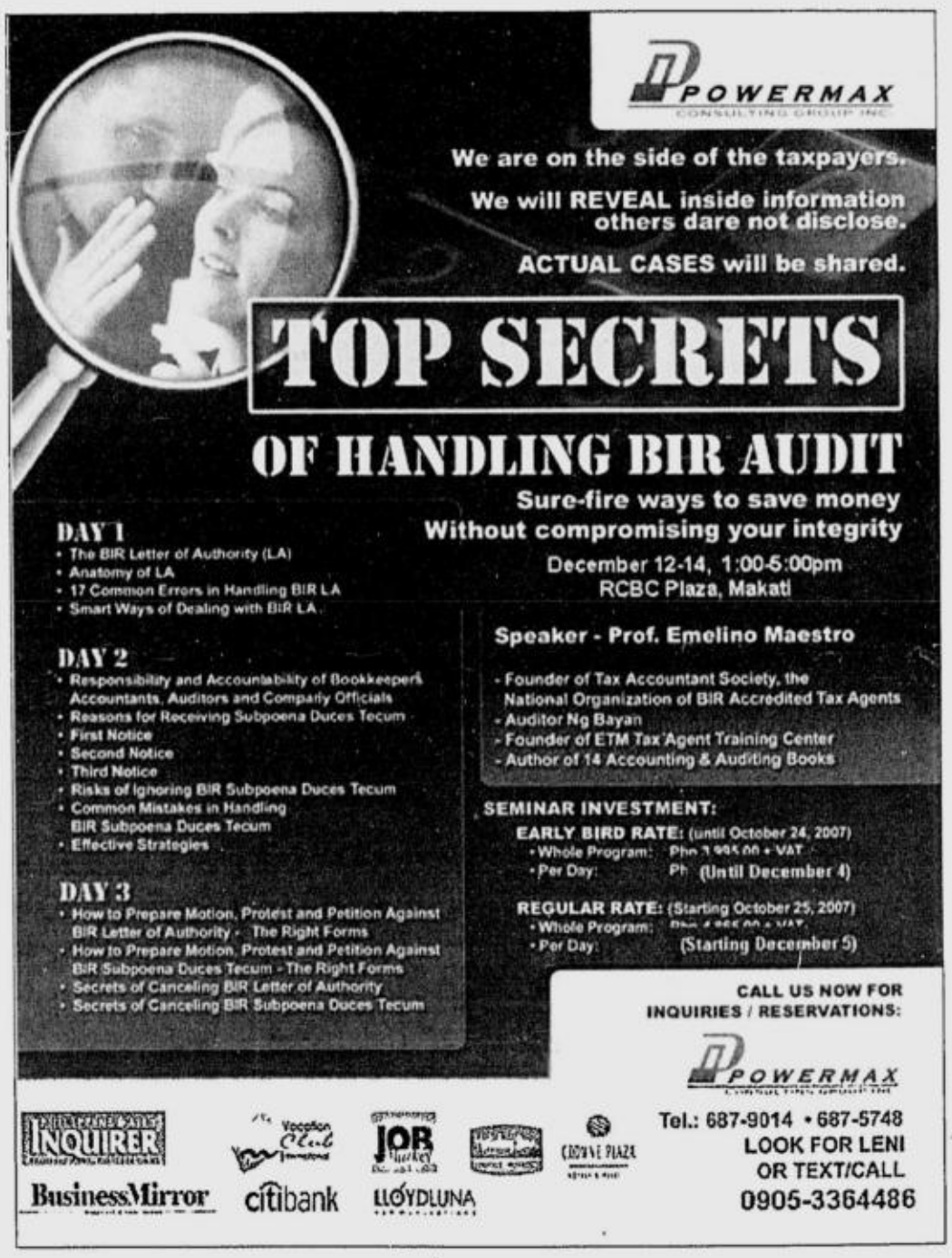
36 SQ.M. STUDIO TYPE UNIT, WITH TOILET, AIRCON, BARE, FOR SALE AT P4.5M.
OR FOR RENT AT P40,000/MO., INCLUSIVE OF CLUB & CONDO DUES, ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR ONE YEAR.
WITH OPTIONAL PARKING SLOT, FOR SALE AT P675,000.

2. PENINSULA DE PUNTA FUEGO LOT
LOT 6, BLOCK 23, 75 PENINSULA AVE.
660 SQ.M.
PRE-SELLING PRICE : P12,500 / SQ.M. (NEGOTIABLE)

3. HOUSE AND LOT IN BACOLOD
(FORMERLY MONTESSORI SCHOOL)
5 NORTH DRIVE, BACK OF REDEMPTIONIST CHURCH,
600 SQ.M.
ASKING PRICE : P7M (NEGOTIABLE).

4. VILLA DE TOLEDO, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA
150 SQ.M., FACING ENCHANTED KINGDOM
ASKING PRICE : P700,000.

For inquiries, call
JAIME TRINIDAD
at 521-6138 or 522-4792
(during office hours),
842-0127 or 0917-7438789.



Trixie Pama, featured singer

TRIXIE PAMA, ONE OF THE FEATURED SINGERS IN THE National Classifieds Valued Advertisers Recognition last Nov. 28, at the Star City Theater, always had her passion in singing. She started performing at the age of 11 in one of Repertory Philippines summer workshops, an experience that led her into more stage performances until present time. Her performance credits include Grease the musical (as Sandy), Soireel, Pippin the Musical (as Fastrada), and Ave. Q Highlights (as Christmas Eve) for Repertory; Looney Alley! for Thinking Cap Inc and Some Enchanted Evening and Reel Tracks for Yamaha School of Music. She also won as grand prix champion for the Classical and Broadway categories in Yamaha's grand recitals.

ANNOUNCEMENT TO OUR VALUED ADVERTISERS

PDI Kalaw branch

has been transferred to:

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg., 490 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila (in front of National Library)

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523-5570 (Trunk Line)
loc. 115 or **116**
525-7381 (Classifieds)

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Inquire about the Job Market package at 897-8808 loc. 514

JOB Market
Find a career in here

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Development Company (NDC), through its Bids & Awards Committee, invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project specified below:

Name of project : Security Service
Project No. : BAC07-12-142
Location : 1. NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; 2. Dasmariñas, Cavite; 3. Sto. Domingo, Angeles City; 4. Meycauayan, Bulacan; 5. Toril, Davao
Contract Duration : One (1) Year
Approved Budget : P 12,700,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five years, with more than 20 guards deployed per contract. The eligibility check/screening as well as the preliminary examination of bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. The contract will be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification process.

All particulars relative to the bidding shall be governed by the pertinent provisions and Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184.

Please be advised of the following schedule of activities:

ACTIVITY	DATE / TIME	VENUE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 9-16, 2007	7/F NDC Building
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 17, 2007, 2:00 PM	6/F NDC Building, Conference Room
3. Deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	Dec. 28, 2007, 12:00 PM	7/F NDC Building
4. Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	Dec. 28, 2007, 2:00 PM	Alberto Barretto Hall, NDC Building
5. Bid Evaluation	Jan. 3, 2008	6/F NDC Building
6. Post-Qualification	Jan. 4, 2008	6/F NDC Building
7. Notice of Award	Jan. 8, 2008	Thru fax, mail or delivery

Bid documents shall be issued to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) to the NDC Cashier located at the 7/F NDC Building.

NDC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) SATURNINO H. MEJIA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Dec. 9, 2007)

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY

NO FEES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM APPLICANTS

TAISEI PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

(LICENSE NO. POEA-002-POCB-1022105-NL)
Prospective Principal: TAISEI CORPORATION - DUBAI BRANCH
Worksite: United Arab Emirates

- SURVEYOR / JR. SURVEYORS
- preferably licensed geodetic/civil engineer
- well-versed in vertical and horizontal controls
- experience in high rise building construction

- SCHEDULER / ASST. SCHEDULER
- preferably licensed civil engineer
- have experience in construction methodology, planning, scheduling and monitoring of works
- knowledgeable in computer software such as Primavera and MS Project

Applicants with valid passport will be given preference

MAIL OR E-MAIL YOUR COMPREHENSIVE BIODATA, ONE (1) PASSPORT SIZE PICTURE AND PHOTOCOPY OF PASSPORT TO TAISEI PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION, INC. AT 23RD FLOOR EQUITABLE BANK TOWER, PASEO DE ROXAS, SALCEDO VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY

Email address: tpcioverseas@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

SteelAsia Manufacturing Corporation – Calaca Works.

invites interested cargo handlers to bid for steel scrap handling operations for its Steel Plant in Calaca, Batangas

Scope of work:
- Unloading of steel scrap deliveries from vessel / barge
- Unloading of steel scrap deliveries from trucks/container vans
- Delivery of steel scrap from vessel/barge to scrap yard.
- Segregation of non-ferrous, cleaning/sorting of scrap at scrap yard
- Delivery of sorted/cleaned scrap from scrap yard to melt shop.

Handling and transport equipment such as backhoe with hydraulic grab, mobile cranes and dump trucks shall be provided by the winning bidder.

For details and inquiries please contact:

Roberto M. Cola
B2 Bonifacio High Street,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Tel nos. (02) 856-6888; Fax no. (02) 856-5555
Email: rmcola@steelasia.com

(PDI–Dec. 9, 2007)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective January 01, 2008

SWEDISH MATCH PHILIPPINES, INC.

new address and contact numbers
104 Technology Avenue,
Laguna Technopark Special Economic Zone
Biñan, Laguna 4024
Telephone number: +63 49 7440770
Fax Number: +63 49 5410136

Republic of the Philippines
VALENCIA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Hagkol, Valencia City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The **VALENCIA CITY WATER DISTRICT** invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for bidding of:

Item	Particulars	Quantity
1. Security Guards	8 hrs/shift	21 Guards

** Rate is based on PADPAO Standard Rate*

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 4, 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	December 7, 2007
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility and Bidding documents	On or before December 17, 2007 @ 5:00 pm
4. Opening of Bids	December 18, 2007 @ 9:30 am
5. Bid Evaluation	Right after opening of bids
6. Post-qualification	December 19-26, 2007
7. Notice of Award	December 27, 2007

Interested Parties may secure bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat at Valencia City Water District, Tel. No. (088) 222-3738/(088) 828-2067 and look for Irene or Stiffany.

The VCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to VCWD. It likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids nor does not guarantee that the award shall be made.

Prepared by:
(Sgd.) **MICHAEL M. PORNIA**
BAC Chair

Noted & Approved by:
(Sgd.) **RUEL P. PADREQUIL**
General Manager

(PDI–Dec. 9 & 15, 2007)

Managing emotions at the workplace

AS YOU FACE A larger workload, tighter deadlines and greater demands on personal time, you're likely to find yourself in situations where you need help identifying and managing emotions in the workplace. American Management Association will conduct a seminar on Managing Emotions at the Workplace on Dec. 13 and 14 at Mandarin Oriental, Makati. For inquiries, call 7596680 and look for Jasmin or email to jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph

Environmental conflict management seminar

A TWO-DAY COURSE will be held on Dec. 11 and 12 at ECI Training Center, Unit E, 9th Floor, Strata 100 Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, on Environmental conflict, designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to deal with and resolve conflicts.

This course is ideal for project developers and implementers, LGU and NGO planners, financial planners, engineers and project managers, as well as pollution control officers and environmental personnel. For more info, contact ARIVA at 8958058, 8959527 or 8909651. Email at successseminars@Ariva.com.ph

LOT FOR SALE

Location : BARRIO SIBUL SPRING, SAN MIGUEL, BULACAN

(Area noted as rich in GOLD RESERVES and MINERAL RESOURCES)

"Ideal for Gold and Mineral Resources Exploration"

Lot Area: 6 Hectares

Price: **Php 2 Million (Negotiable)**

For Inquiries Contact:

Ms. Menchie F. Peña
Tel: 817-3919 or 7296664 to 65 loc. 144
Email Address: cfpena@singermanila.com.ph

STA. ELENA

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Business Opportunity/Investor(s) Needed

A distance learning business with nationwide network is in need of investor(s) for its expansion project (cyber education, ESL, etc.)

Amount of Investment: **Php 5 million** (this entitles the investor **50% ownership** of the business).

Only serious inquiries will be entertained. Those not willing to invest the above amount need not inquire.

Please email letter of intent to
info@itdynamicsphil.com

IT Dynamics is the Philippine Licensee of the American Correspondence Institute (ACI Learning Systems)
www.itdynamicsphil.com

INDUSTRIAL LOT FOR SALE

PRIME INDUSTRIAL LOT
located in **TAGUIG CITY**
with an area of 7,700 sq. meters

BATANGAS AREA along Nat'l. Road,
Boundary Lipa City & Malvar
100 m. away from LIMA Tech. Park
Lot Area: 12,431 sq.m.

Contact: Lala, Tel. No. 682-1057 / 645-8261 or 0921-5468068

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

2003 Honda Civic VTI 1.6 / XKH-327
2007 Honda Jazz / DF3731
2004 KIA Picanto / RAR-795
2003 Honda CRV / XNN-408

For particulars, please call Philam Ins. Co., Inc. c/o Tristan Yoro & Arvin Calipjo at Tel. No. 815-30-00.

(PDI - December 8 & 9, 2007)

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

NOTICE

DTI DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

Notice is hereby given that **PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANY** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Operator of Infrastructure and Telecommunication Facilities (Next Generation Network Phase 1, 2 and 3)** with the following capacities:

Phase 1	307,144 Subscriber per year
Phase 2	435,582 Subscriber per year
Phase 3	213,355 Subscriber per year

on a **Non-Pioneer** Status and with office address at **Ramon Cojuangco Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–December 9, 2007)

OBITUARIES

The Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation
beg you to recommend to God in your prayers and sacrifices the eternal repose of our dear

Mother CARMELA Eliazo EVIOTA, OSA
(Carolina E. Eviota)
(June 10, 1924)
who passed away on December 8, 2007 at the age of 83.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE
FUNERAL MASS will be on December 11, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.
at the La Consolacion Convent Chapel
273 Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila.
Interment will follow at the La Loma Cemetery after the MASS.

REYNALDO RAÑADA GARCIA

Who peacefully joined his Creator on the 5th of December at the age of 55.

He is survived by his father **Dr. Roque M. Garcia**, his wife **Angie**, children **Pocholo, Gracel Joy & Paolo**, brothers, sisters, in-laws **May & Roger Sunglao, Ernie & Gely, Rolly, Baby & Lito Garces** and **Eric**, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the morning Memorial Service on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at Paz Crematory.

Eduardo Camara Dote

Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on December 7, 2007 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Rina Diño Dote**; daughter **Jocelyn Ann "Jo Ann" Lao** & husband **Joey Salazar Lao** with grandchildren **Jose, Duane Edward, Jannica Margaux**; nieces, nephews, in-laws & other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in Heaven.

His body lies at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos H-way, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on December 12, 2007 (Wed.), at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 2:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Marian Chapel.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary & burdened, & I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

POTTER'S RIDGE HOTEL

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Superb Food with splendid views

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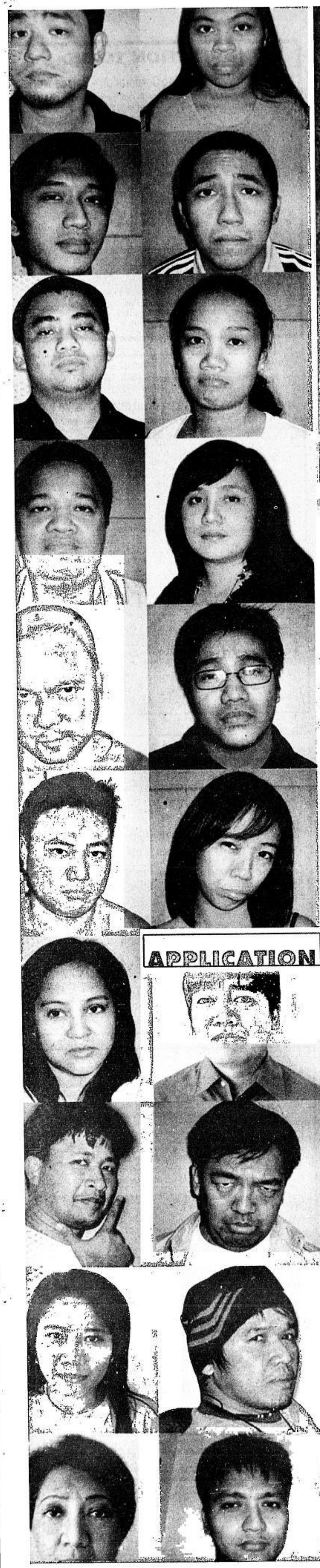
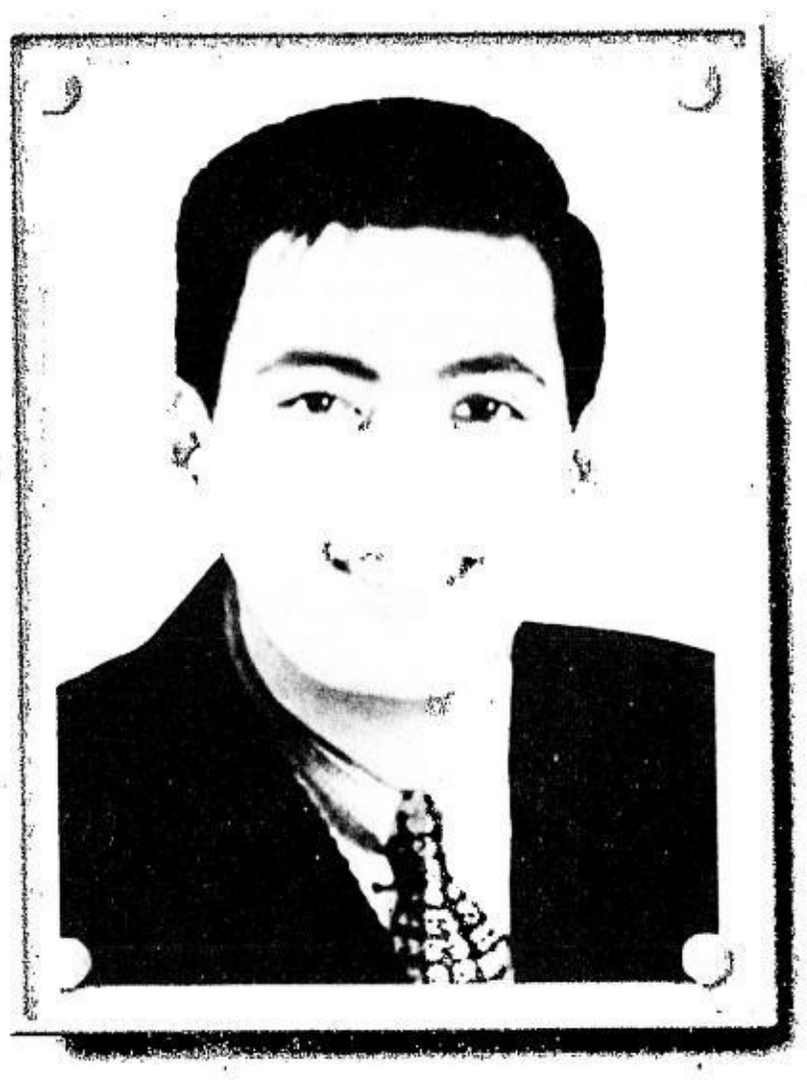


EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Michael Santos

MARKETING MANAGER

Hired 18 months ago
Fastest rising star in the regional network

AMBITION

APPLICATION

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

UNDER the bright, glittery and cheerful Christmas atmosphere of SM City North Edsa, shoppers do not only find delight at the myriad of shops--as the mall known as a shopper's paradise is also a foodie's paradise. A big number of restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries, and specialty food places offer food products that come in different types, portions, boxes, and packages fit for gifts and needs of group gatherings. Come and have a food sampling now.

The Foodie's Guide to Great Gifts for the Season

Goldilocks: Tradition lives on

GOLDILOCKS HAD HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN A SIMPLE ONE-door apartment along Pasong Tamo in Makati.

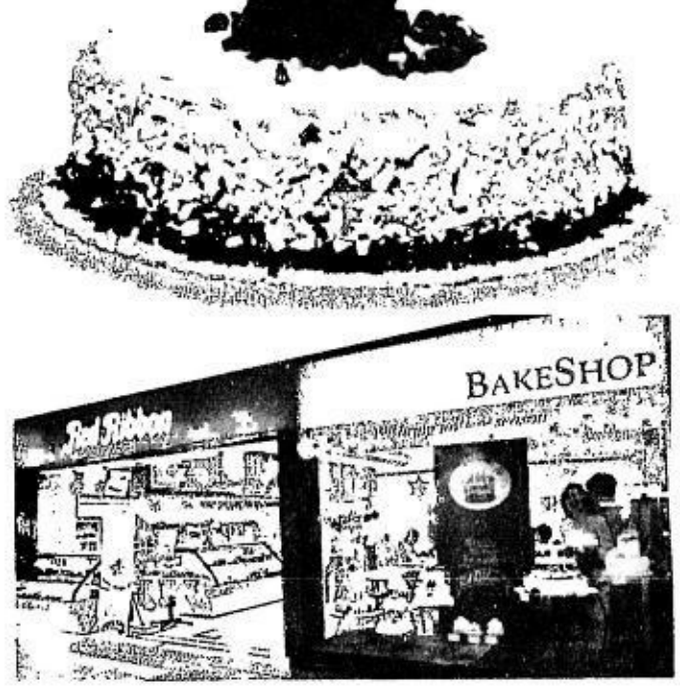
The founders had a simple vision then-to produce high-quality, high-value but affordable products. This has been the commitment of Goldilocks for more than three decades.

This Christmas, this tradition lives on--sinfully irresistible cakes and delicious pastries you can take out.

Get the following cakes and pastries from Goldilocks. Tel. No 927-7295

1. Hazelnut mousse desire - P480
2. Rainbow Cake - P394
3. Black Forest Petite - P260
4. Choco Mousse petite - P230
5. Ube roll - P220
6. Mocha roll - P220
7. Caramel brownies - P168
8. Chocomousse petite - P230
9. Crema de fruta big - P323
10. Choco lollipop (Xmas tree/reindeer) - P14
11. Snowman - P15

Holiday cakes: Good old Pinoy feeling



IN THE US, THE DISTINCTLY LIGHT, MOIST AND HEAVENLY quality of Red Ribbon cakes stands out amid heavy, dry and sticky cakes in mainstream bakeries or supermarkets. They are a delight to American friends, welcomed into the warmth of get-togethers and cheerful homes of Filipino-Americans.

Back home, Red Ribbon cakes and pastries have become a heart-warming part of Filipino Christmas. Celebrate the joy of the season with these mouth-watering yummy gifts. They bring you the feeling of the comfort of good old Pinoy home. Tel. No. 453-6328

Sugarnot: Sweet indulgence, sans guilt

SUGARNOT, THE PLACE TO relish sweets and desserts with a cup of coffee, tea or cold beverage, is offering a "sweet but guiltless" sugar-free indulgence this Christmas.

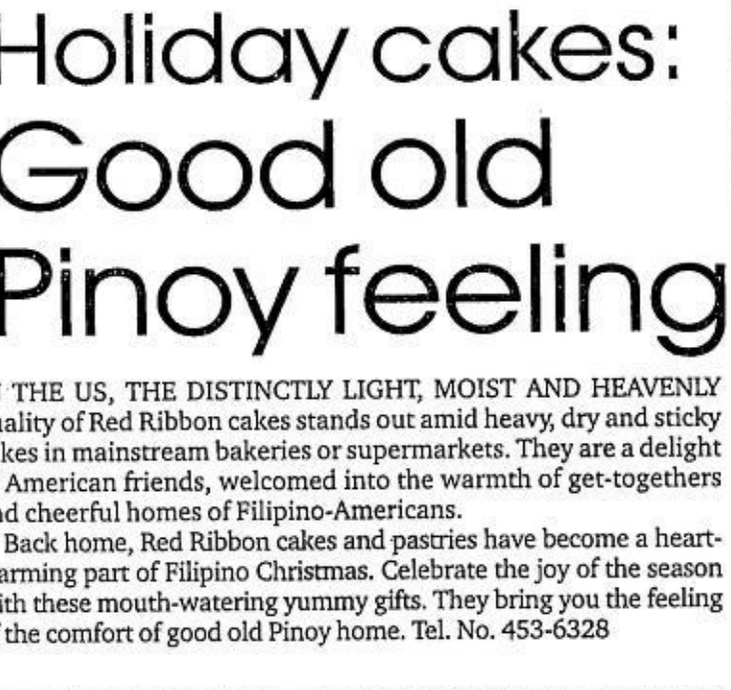
Sugar-free fruit cake, banana loaf, colorful cupcakes, moist and sinfully sweet food for the gods, star-shaped oatmeal choco cookies, pralines and truffles now come in a gift box. They're perfect for the health-conscious who have a sweet tooth nonetheless.

Sugarnot is giving a free fruit cake for every 10 pieces of fruit cake purchased and a P100 gift certificate. This promo includes fruit cake, banana loaf, food for the gods, cup cakes, star-shaped oatmeal choco cookies, praline and truffel gift boxes. Call 8893427 / 8435197 to place your orders.

Thinking of the diner's health, Sugarnot has introduced the Glucerna Breakfast and Lunch Menu in all branches. A variety of six new dishes are now available for the health- and weight-conscious diners, for breakfast and lunch.

Thick and delicious supreme pancakes, veggie rolls, sumptuous salads and more, all fortified with Glucerna SR, are offered for all-day breakfast and lunch.

Delectable fruitcake from French Baker



SM Supermarket dominates retail

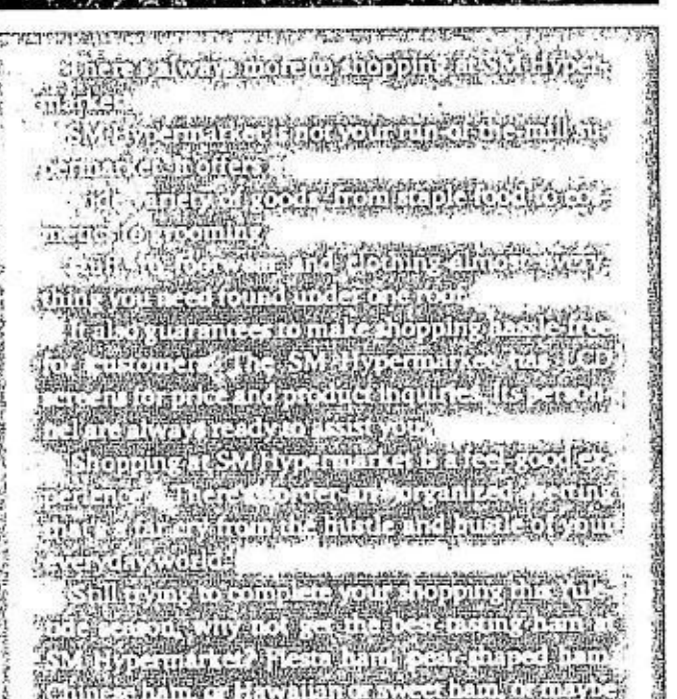
ESTABLISHED IN 1985, SM SUPERMARKET HAS BEcome the most dominant player in retail. There's an SM Supermarket near you; there are

23 locations you can visit. It boasts a wide range of freshest produce, meats, poultry and seafood delivery daily sourced directly from growers, processors and integrators.

SM Supermarket also operates a bakery offering freshly baked cakes at very affordable prices. So after shopping for your freshest meats or seafood, fruits and vegetables, you don't have to go far to get your cakes because SM Supermarket has them.

Choose from a wide variety of holiday treats-carrot cake, chocoholic, special fruit cake, black forest dome cake, choco jelly roll or the almond butter scotch cake. Tel. No. 922-4347

Goodies for delicious holidays



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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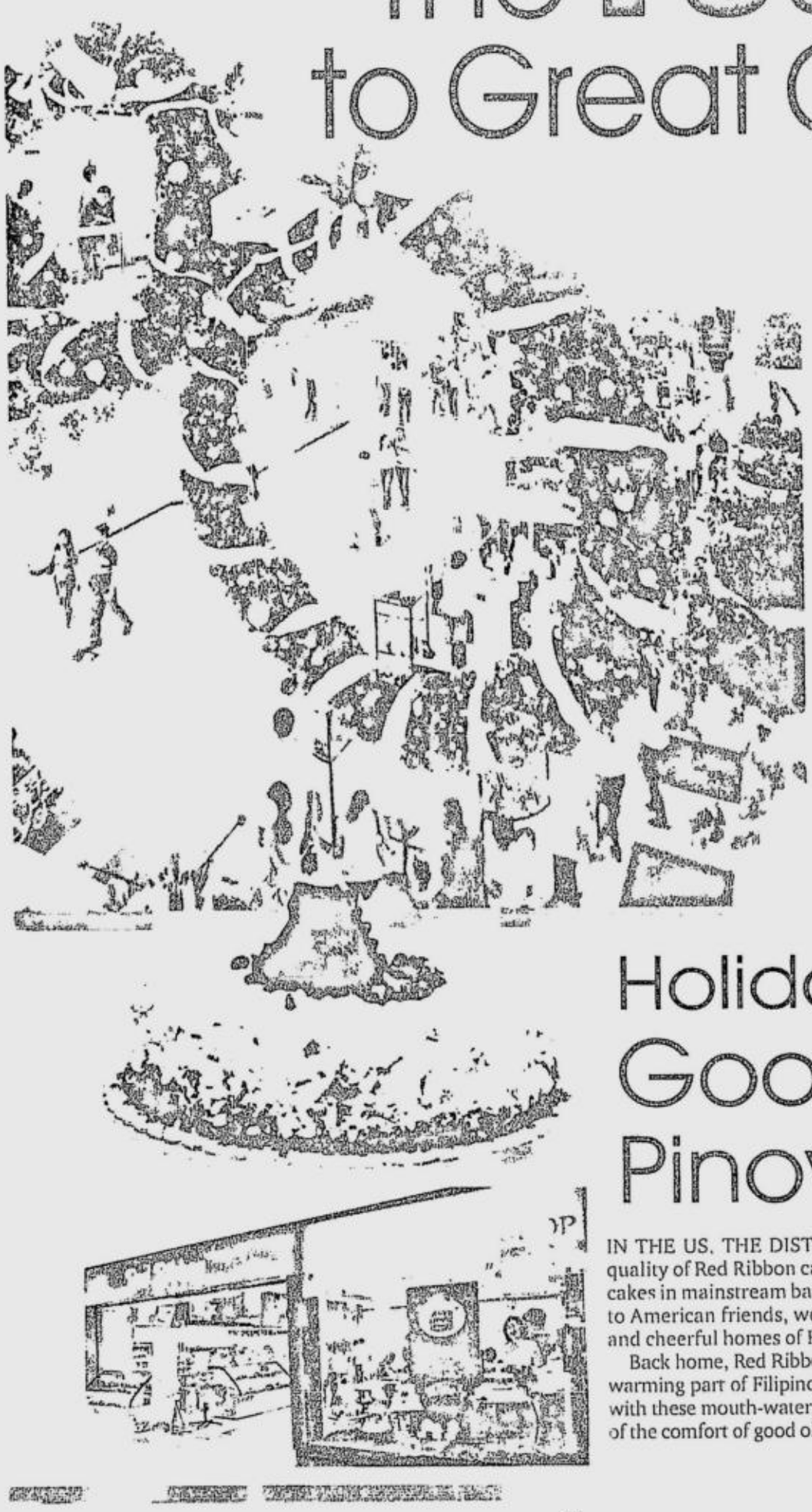
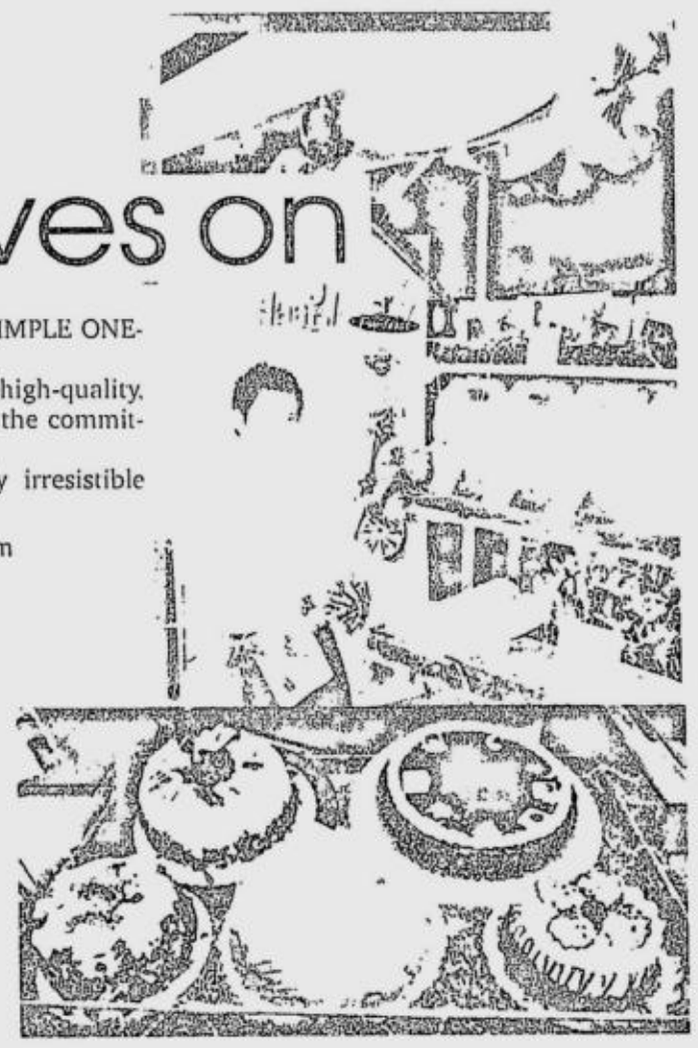


Goldilocks: Tradition lives on



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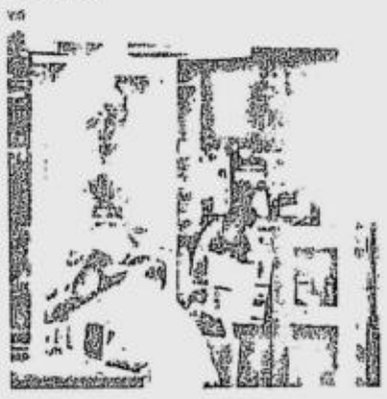


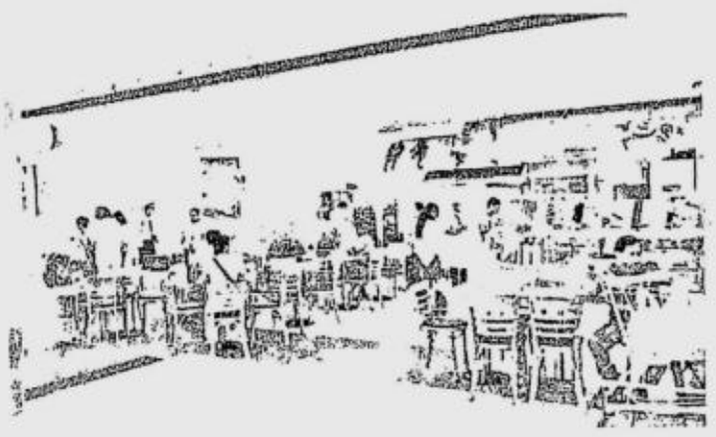
SUGARNOT, THE PLACE TO relish sweets and desserts with a cup of coffee, tea or cold beverage, is offering a "sweet but guiltless" sugar-free indulgence this Christmas.

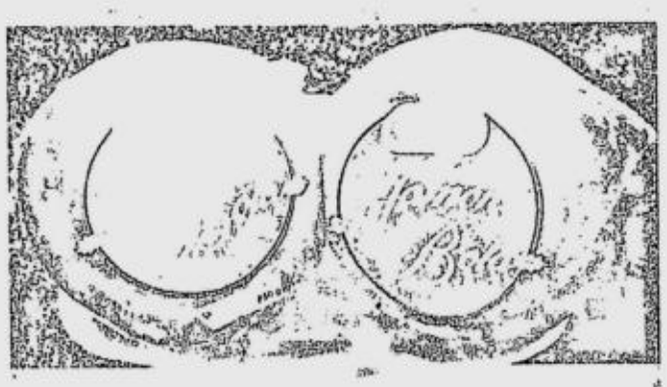
Sugar-free fruit cake, banana loaf, colorful cupcakes, moist and sinfully sweet food for the gods, star-shaped oatmeal choco cookies, pralines and truffles now come in a gift box. They're perfect for the health-conscious who have a sweet tooth nonetheless.

Sugarnot is giving a free fruit cake for every 10 pieces of fruit cake purchased and a P100 gift certificate. This promo includes fruit cake, banana loaf, food for the gods, cup cakes, star-shaped oatmeal choco cookies, praline and truffel gift boxes. Call 8893427 8435197 to place your orders.

Thinking of the diner's health, Sugarnot has introduced the Glucerna Breakfast and Lunch Menu in all branches. A variety of six new dishes are now available for the health- and weight-conscious diners, for breakfast and lunch.

Thick and delicious supreme pancakes, veggie rolls, sumptuous salads and more, all fortified with Glucerna SR, are offered for all-day breakfast and lunch.





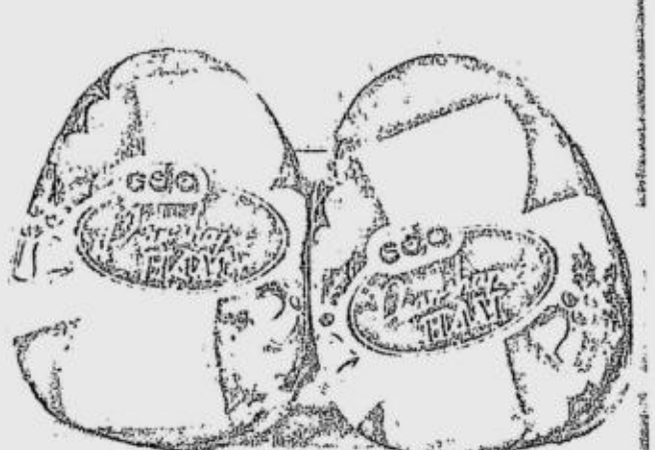
SM Supermarket

ESTABLISHED IN 1985, SM SUPERMARKET HAS BEcome the most dominant player in retail. There's an SM Supermarket near you; there are

23 locations you can visit. It boasts a wide range of freshest produce, meats, poultry and seafood delivery daily sourced directly from growers, processors and integrators.

SM Supermarket also operates a bakery offering freshly baked cakes at very affordable prices. So after shopping for your freshest meats or seafood, fruits and vegetables, you don't have to go far to get your cakes because SM Supermarket has them.

Choose from a wide variety of holiday treats-carrot cake, chocoholic, special fruit cake, black forest dome cake, choco jelly roll or the almond butter scotch cake. Tel. No. 922-4347



RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Pizza de Lechon, Greenwich style

FOR THIS SEASON'S GET-TOGETHERS, Greenwich makes celebration easy and interesting with the Greenwich Party Express.

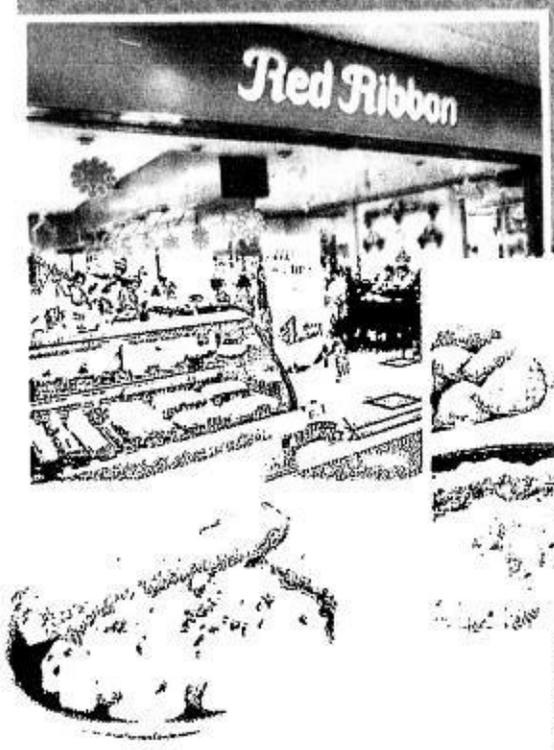
Greenwich's Deliciously Merry Feast offers pizza de lechon with festive flavors of lechon kawali and chicharon, spread over a base of lechon sarsa atop Greenwich's newest Garlic Rolled-Edge crust.

The two new pasta dishes are Super Meatball Spaghetti with a mound of tender meat, covered in rich, tasty tomato sauce and parmesan cheese, and Cheesy Beef Cannelloni-- the rolled pasta stuffed with a juicy beef filling on a bed of tangy salsa and topped with cream sauce and cheese.

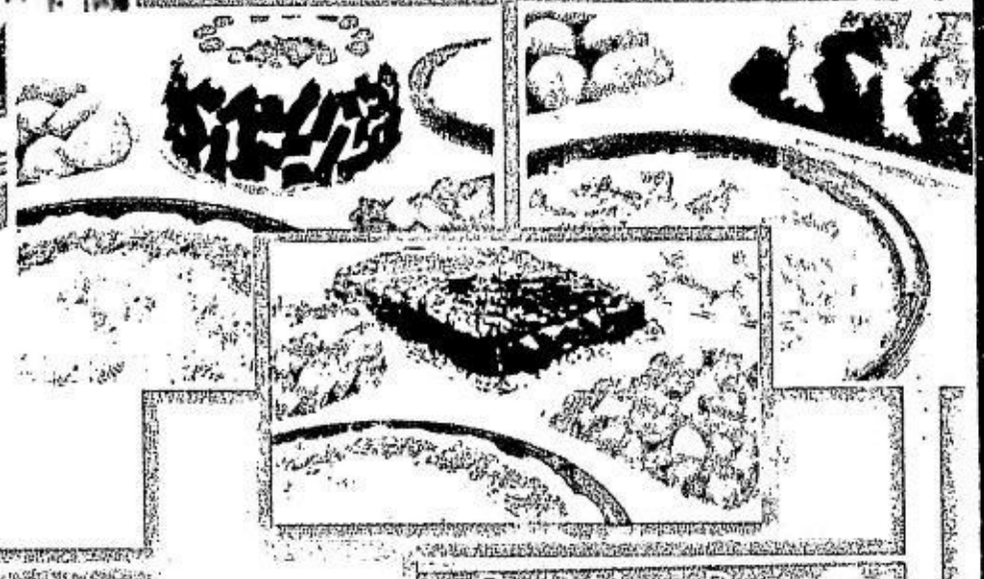
Also available are Greenwich's all-time favorites -- Greenwich Special, Primo Fully-Loaded, Lasagna and Baked Macaroni Supreme.

Whether new or classic favorite, Greenwich Party Express spares you from party preparation stress. Check out your favorite Greenwich store or call Greenwich Delivery 5-55-55 for Metro Manila. Tel. No. 456-9620

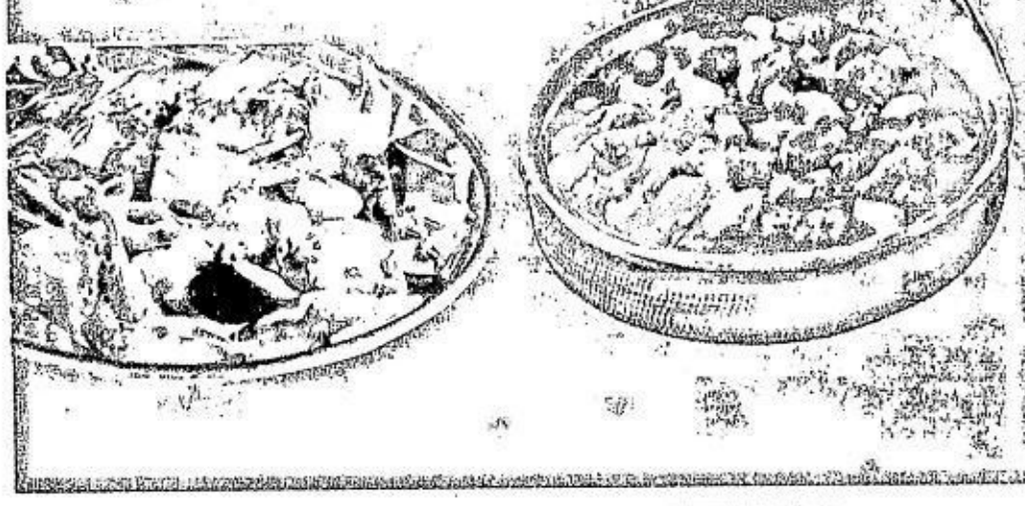
Christmas Party Packages Choices, Choices



RED RIBBON CHRISTMAS PARTY PACKAGES COME IN various choices: Christmas Feast good for 12 to 15 persons; the Christmas Buffet for 10 to 12 persons; Christmas Blow-out for 8 to 10; Christmas Treat for 6 to 8 persons. The packages come with either porlucks of palabok or spaghetti, chicken empanada, pan grilled chops, classic caldereta and, of course, a cake and the thirst-quenching Coke. Tel. No. 453-6328

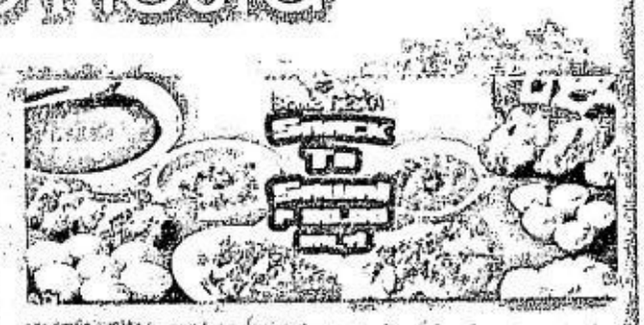


Cabalen: Best of Pampanga

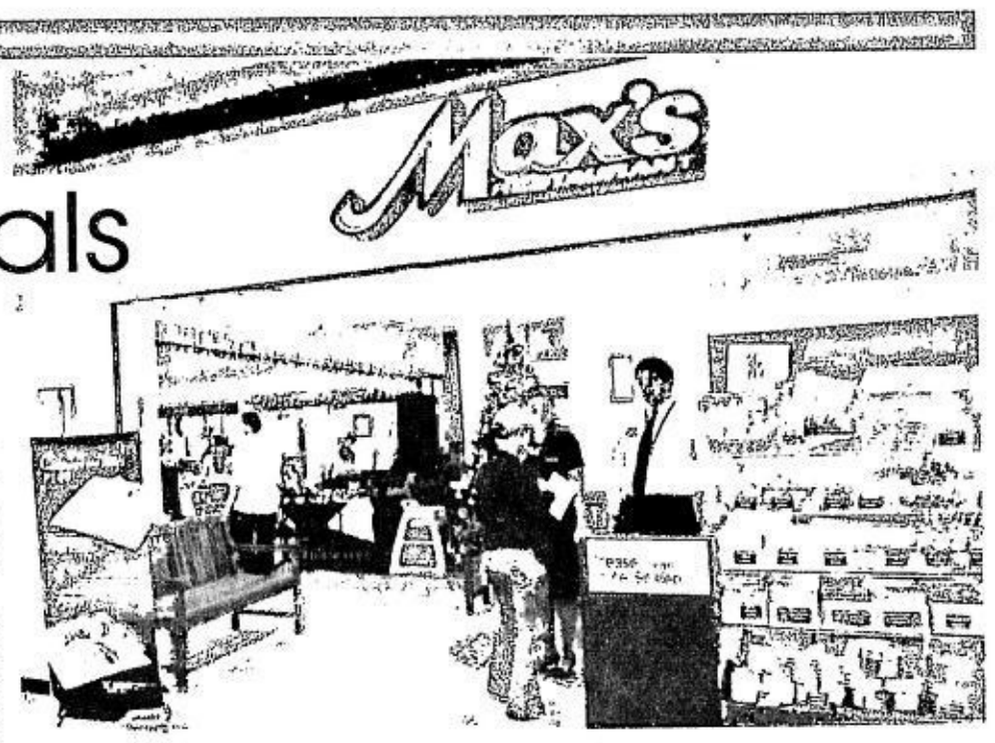


Fiesta Time with Old Time Filipino Favorites

Combo discounts at Barrio Fiesta



Max's specials



FAMILY GATHERINGS ARE always special at Max's Restaurant.

This time of the year, the restaurant that promotes Filipino values and tradition, makes gatherings more special with a number of Christmas party packages.

Mix and match and take your pick from Max's well known lineup of dishes: Max's famous fried chicken combined with classic Filipino favorites done the Max's way-*kare-kare*, crispy *pata*, crispy *pata* bites, *lechon kawali, camaron rebusado, sinigang na hipon, sinigang na tiyan ng bangus, chopseuy, pancit canton, and pancit bihon.*

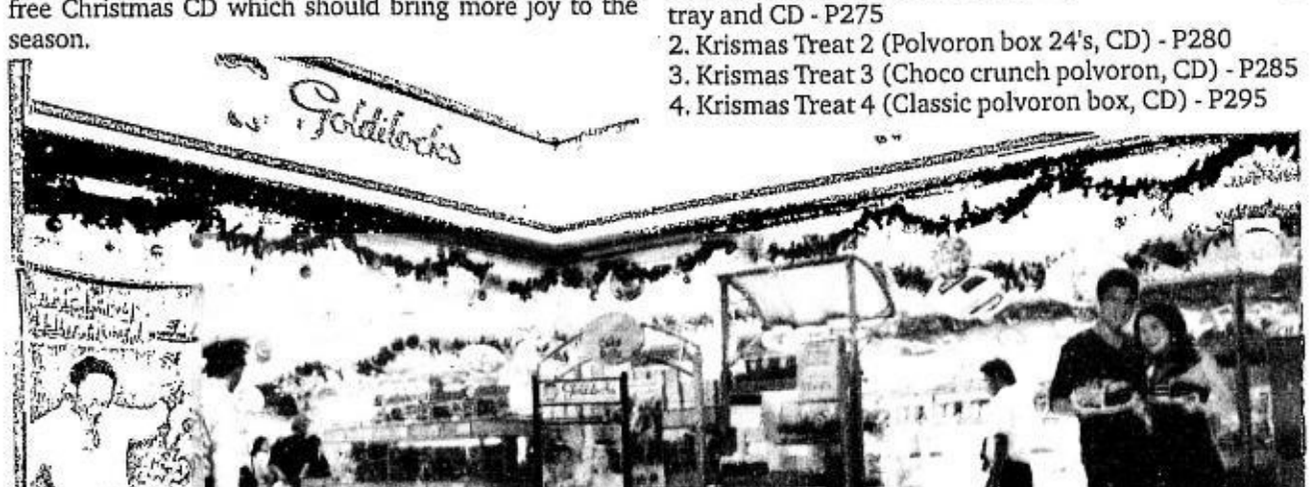
For desserts, Max's offers sweet sensations--*halo-halo, leche plan, ube* crème decadence, *buko pandan*, and ice cream: Tel. No. 928-3405.

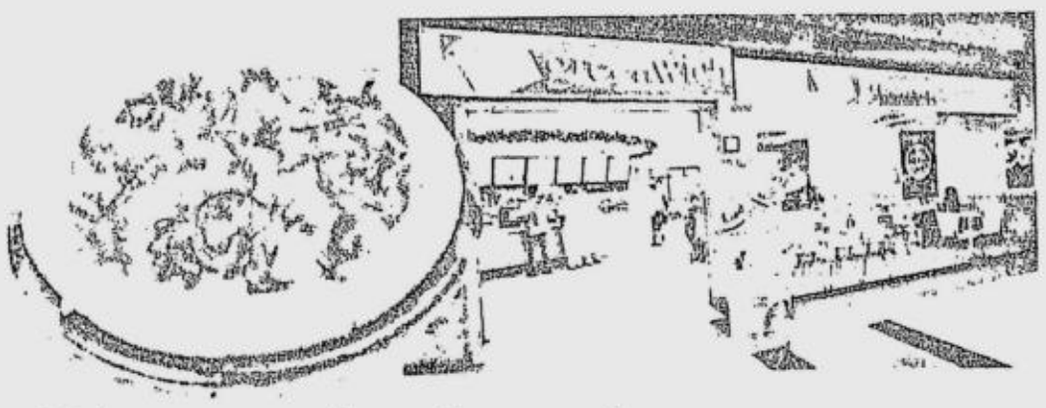
Goldilocks: Christmas Party Packages

APTLY CHRISTENED KRISMAS TREATS, GOLDILOCKS has four treats at affordable prices. They all come with a free Christmas CD which should bring more joy to the season.

Krismas Treats from Goldilocks:

1. Krismas treat 1 (Choco krinkles, butter macaroons, tray and CD - P275
2. Krismas Treat 2 (Polvoron box 24's, CD) - P280
3. Krismas Treat 3 (Choco crunch polvoron, CD) - P285
4. Krismas Treat 4 (Classic polvoron box, CD) - P295





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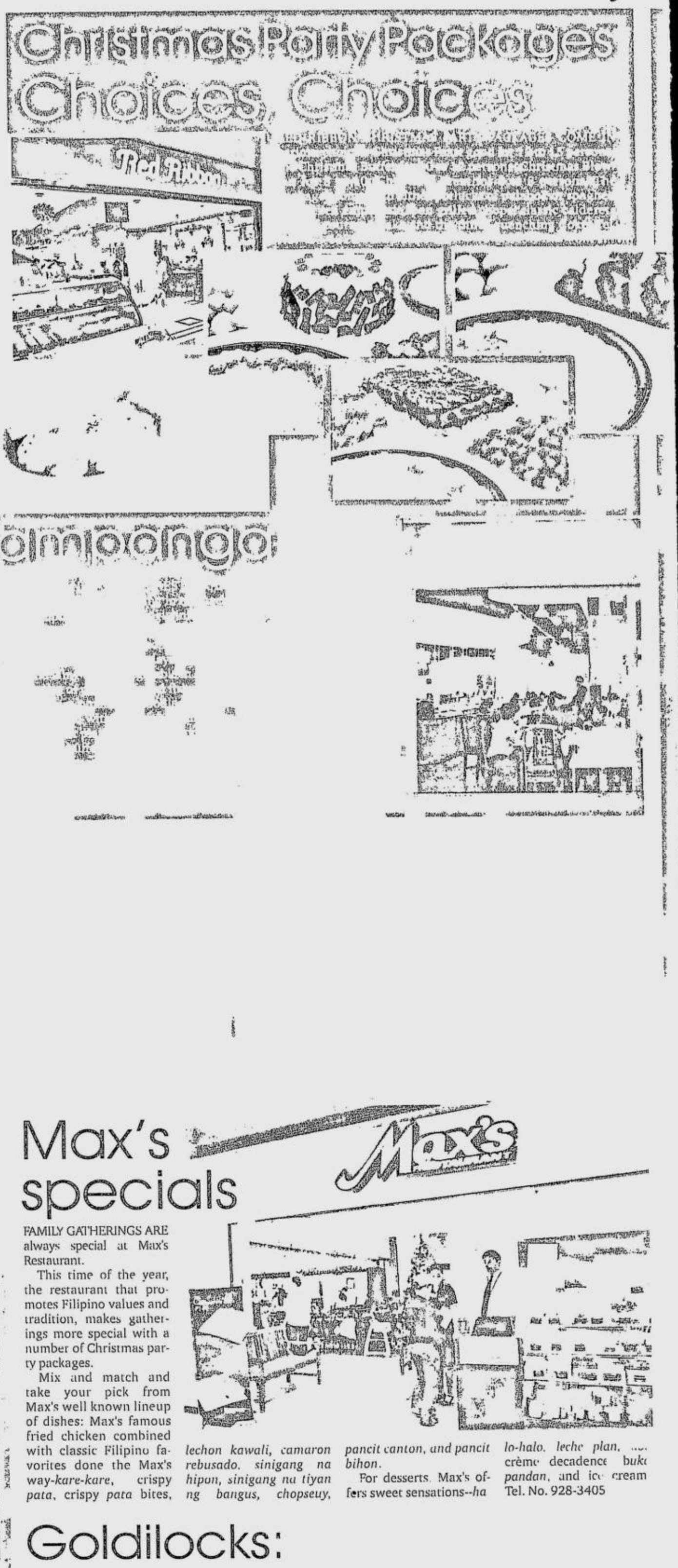

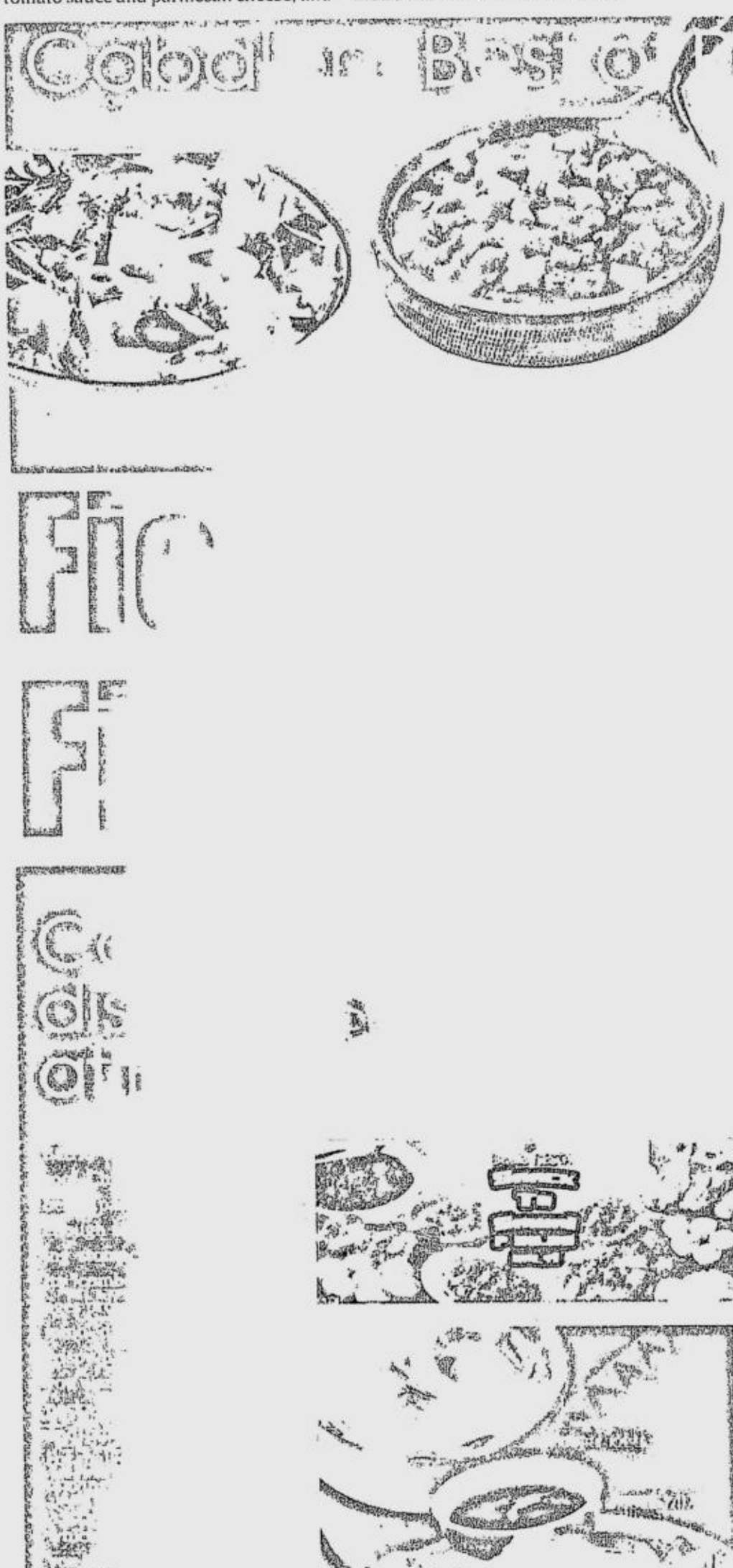

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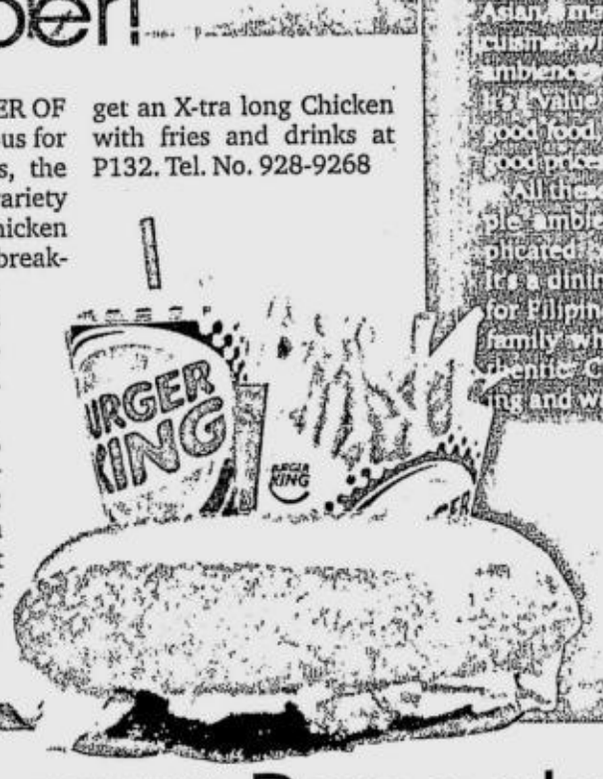
This Yuletide season, enjoy Burger King's special Christmas treats: buy a Whopper with French fries and soft drinks for only P152 or get an X-tra long Chicken with fries and drinks at P132. Tel. No. 928-9268



Super Bowl: Asian yet Western

SUPER BOWL'S CON cept is to build a restaurant that will serve Asian, mainly Chinese cuisine with Western ambience and service. It's value for money, good food, good service, good price.

All these can't in a simple ambience, uncomplicated seating style. It's a dining experience for Filipino friends and family who go for authentic Chinese cooking and warm service.

Its signature house specials include combination of pork siomai, hakao, deep fried wanton, BB Pork Asado, smoked pork, jellyfish with century egg and tofu, chao a spicy beef chimi. Served with boiling and steaming rice.

Tel No. 929-8821

Go chicken-crazy at El Pollo Loco

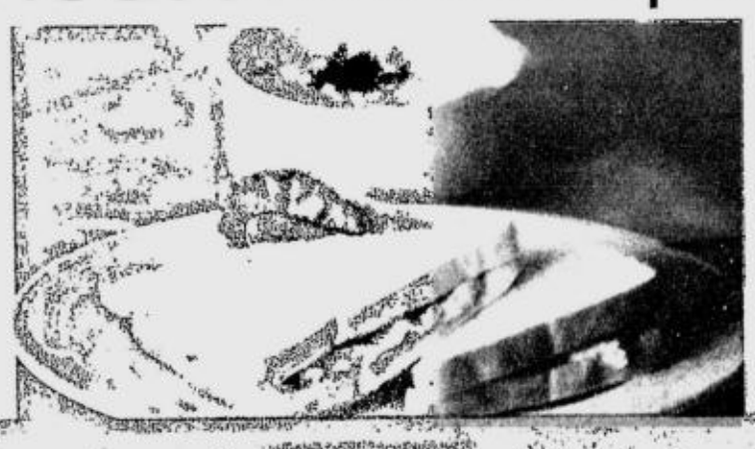
EVERYONE'S GOING loco over El Pollo Loco, where fried chicken is reinvented into a crispier and tastier fare.

El Pollo Loco has Christmas party packages, up to a dining group of six, suited to any budget.

Packages for a group of six include a mix of El Pollo chicken, large Spanish rice, tortilla, salsa catsup, chicken soft taco, spaghetti, toasted bread, potato salad, coleslaw, corn, zesto juice, and Twiggies dessert. Party packages range from P75, P95, P99, P100, P125, and P150. Tel. No. 928-9268.

Pancake House: It's the spaghetti, tacos

PANCAKE HOUSE IS NOT JUST A casual dining place that serves specialty pancakes and waffles. It is a family-oriented restaurant that whips up other yummy dishes such as their very popular spaghetti and tacos. All these make Pancake House a pleasant and fun-filled dining experience. Tel. No. 442-0042



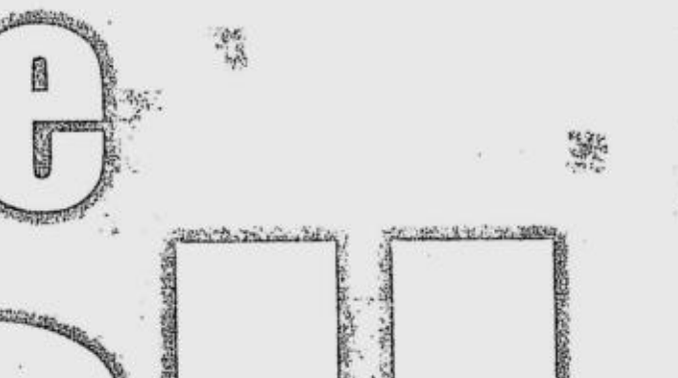
Party Time at the Mall

Kenny Roger's Holiday rib plate

KENNY ROGERS, THE RESTAURANT, made its way to the Filipino's heart with heapful servings of roasted chicken classic, honey bourbon ribs, side dishes of mash potato, corn and carrots nibblets, potato salad, cheesy garlic potato, macaroni and cheese, and top-crunchy muffins.

The restaurant which popularized roasted chicken meals is also winning diners over with its gourmet sandwiches, a range of grilled entrees-chicken, liempo, burger stake, cheeseburger and sausage sandwiches. Then there are its famous muffins-- sugar glazed, choco, and caramel banana chip flavors.

Kenny Roger's holiday treats include the Holiday Rib Plate. For P299, you can have ½ slab of honey bourbon ribs, mashed potato, corn on the cob, and chicken noodle soup. For P60, you can have Kenny's Holiday Muffins, a perfect Christmas treat of the many flavored muffins. Tel. No. 920-4682.

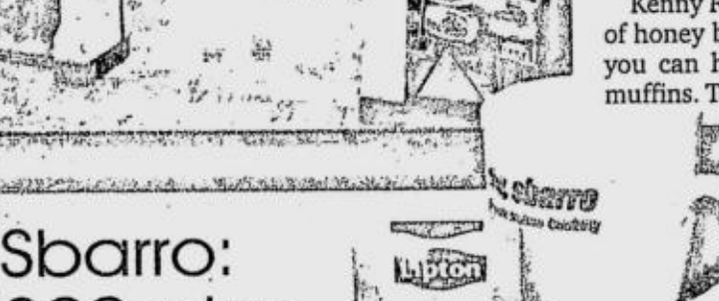


Sbarro: 200-plus specialties

SBARRO IS THE WORLD'S leading quick-service Italian restaurant which offers a broad menu that includes pizza, pastas, salads, desserts and other Italian foods. Its deep Italian roots date back three generations to Naples, Italy, and later Brooklyn, New York. The restaurant's extensive menu consists of more than 200 items based on authentic Southern Italian recipes passed down in the Sbarro family.

Enjoy a Christmas party package Sbarro for only P1,120 and get two stuffed bears for free. You can add another P300 and you take home a book planner.

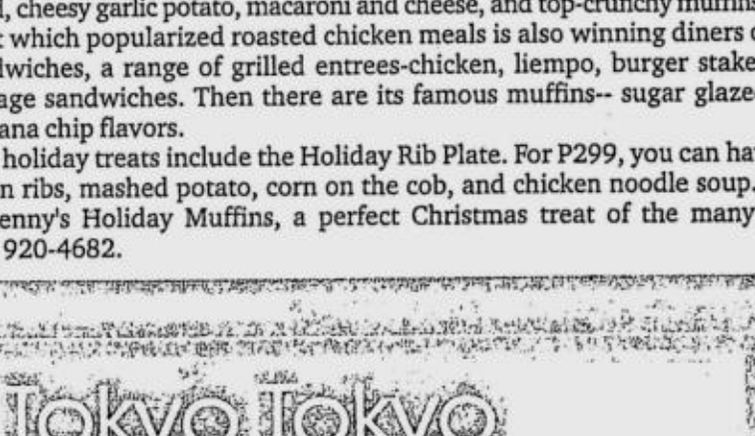
For its Mugnifico Combo promo, buy one slice of cake and a hot Lipton tea for only P250 and get a Sbarro collectible mug for free. You can also buy this Sbarro collectible mug for only P200. Promo is until Dec. 31, 2007. Tel. No. 455-0109



Tokyo Tokyo theme parties

IF YOU WANT TO GO JAPANESE THIS CHRISTMAS, check out Tokyo Tokyo at SM the Block.

Tokyo Tokyo offers Christmas package A (P129 package) a one-piece chicken katsudon with rice, package B (P139) beef teriyaki meal, package C (P139) a beef misono meal, package D (P149) pork tonkatsu meal, package E (P149) a 2-pc chicken and katsudon meal, package F (P149) a pork tonkatsu with gravy meal. For dessert, package G (P79) a 5-pc potato balls and fruit jelly or terry, package H (P79) a fruity jelly and 4 pieces of California maki. For a minimum P1,000 food purchase, you can choose any from 2 to 8 packages and add P99 for free. Tel. No. 9257998.



Bowls of Yoshinoya

FAMOUS FOR ITS BEEF BOWLS, YOSHINOYA'S FOOD IS A combination of two cultures-its traditional Japanese cuisine yet served in an American fast-food environment. So while the food looks and tastes like nothing else, you'll find that the value and speed of service is very familiar.

Its world-renowned beef bowls are made from choice beef simmered with fresh onions in a special sauce of herbs and spices, heaped on a bed of steaming, fluffy rice. Others in the menu are chicken teriyaki bowls-tender, golden brown slices of chicken topped with its exclusive teriyaki sauce and a variety of vegetables and smothered over a bed plump of steaming white rice-and tempura, noodles, bento, salads, and a host of side dishes and desserts.

Get a Yoshinoya Super Upgrade from regular gyudon to large gyudon on your next visit. Also, avail of regular gyudon meals with almond jelly and regular iced tea for only P122 while a regular chicken teriyaki also with regular iced tea and almond jelly would cost you only P142. Tel. No. 920-8177

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Tokyo, Tokyo: Delectables

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Holiday Gimmik time with Friends

Snack Time for the Season

Jack's Loft's cheesecake heaven

NOTHING BEATS THE HIGH [illegible] cheesecake [illegible] Jack's cheesecake [illegible] cake from Jack's Loft.

Baked to perfection with the perfect blend of Philadelphia cream cheese [illegible] cheesecake [illegible] Jack's Loft on the map. Cheesecake lovers in town flock to Jack's Loft for their [illegible] of specialty desserts, sandwiches, [illegible] dishes and [illegible].

[illegible] there's the [illegible] rainbow [illegible] rainbow [illegible] of real brewed coffee [illegible] Applebee's.

Another signature dessert from Jack's Loft is their decadent cake-rich chocolate cake layered with [illegible] of caramel and gourmet sauce.

Jack's Loft's foodies paradise is perfect for hanging out with friends and family. It was established in 2001. It now has five branches, including the one from Jack's SM The Block. Tel. No. 442-0134.

Cerealicious: Create your own

CEREALICIOUS IS A FAST-FOOD RESTAURant offering various cereals--Post, Nestle and Kellogs with milk and a wide range of additional toppings. It gives cereals the local flavor.

A unique idea, it gives diners various ways to enjoy cereals. "Create Your Own" allows consumers to try out assorted cereal brands with either dry or low-fat milk, with toppings like nuts, fruits, cookies, and candies such as gummy bears.

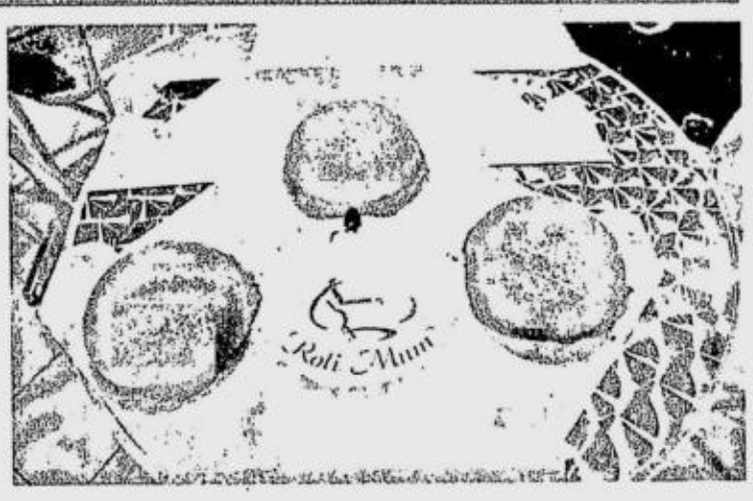
Cerealicious has six branches at The Block, SM North Edsa; University of Santo Tomas, Manila; Sherwood Complex, Taft Avenue; SM Megamall; Theater Mall, Greenhills, and SM City San Lazaro. Tel. No. 442-0022

Bo's Coffee Club Cebu's pride

SINCE IT STARTED IN 1996, BO'S COFFEE Club has become Cebu's phenomenal coffee place [illegible] delectable [illegible] delicious treats [illegible] friendly service [illegible] atmosphere [illegible] Confidence [illegible] excellent quality [illegible] Branched out to Metro Manila, Bo's [illegible] city's [illegible] McDonade [illegible] Bo's [illegible] romantic coffee and everything good that [illegible] come with it.

Enjoy fun time with friends at Bo's Coffee Club. Tel. No. 442-0140.

Have a taste of RotiMum, Singapore's best bun



THE SINGAPORE homegrown Roti Mum, rated as Singapore's Best coffee bun by The Sunday Times, is now serving its most popular product Roti Mum Coffee Bun at The Block.

Roti Mum SM North EDSA, on the fourth level of The Block, introduces to Filipino diners its astonishing "magical" buns.

Roti Mum Coffee Bun is crispy but with a cotton-soft inner bun that feels like melted butter.

Roti Mum bun is a surprising mix of sweetness and saltiness. Customers are in for a real treat as buns are prepared and cooked fresh daily and sold still warm on the counter.

Roti Mum's open bakeshop concept is all about freshness and quality preparation.

This Christmas Season, Roti Mum offers the new Chocolate Flavored Buns with its best selling coffee buns. Beautiful boxes of six are available for take home and for Christmas gift giving.

Bubble tea treats

THE FILIPINO PALATE HAS already embraced many [illegible] Asian tastes, which is why Bubble tea a beverage like the Royal milk tea (P75) has become an all-time favorite. The cool place with anime appeal also offers strawberry milk tea (P75) and taro milk tea (P75). For take home gifts, you can also get Santa's cake (P375) and Christmas log cake (395). Tel. No. [illegible]

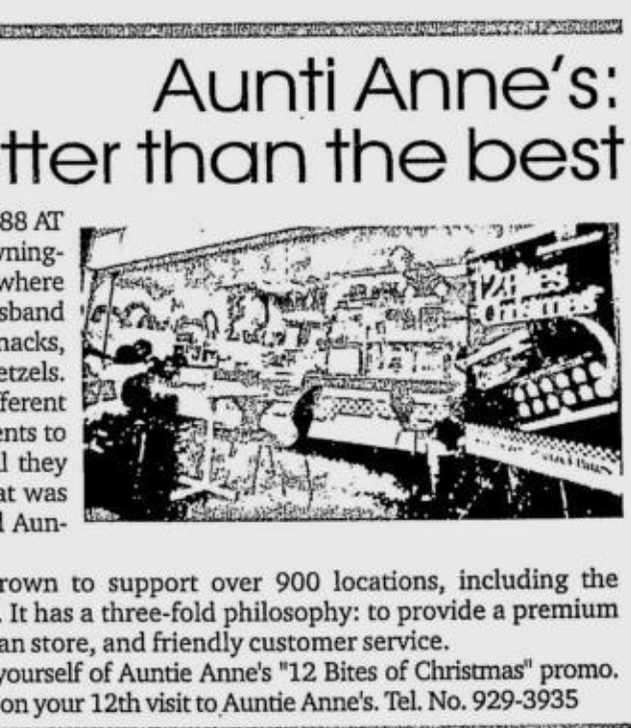
Dunkin Donuts: 52 varities

Dunkin' Donuts is the world's largest coffee and baked goods chain, serving more than 3 million customers a day. Dunkin' Donuts sells 52 varieties of donuts and more than a dozen coffee beverages as well as an array of bagels, breakfast sandwiches and other baked goods.

Buy a dozen Dunkin Donuts and get a Hologram Tumbler for only P138.

Beard Papa's breads

BEARD PAPA'S IS A homegrown store constantly striving to offer customers premium quality bread products. All breads and pastries are handmade with no preservatives and additives added. Tel. No. 441-5089



Aunti Anne's: 'Better than the best

IT STARTED BACK IN 1988 AT a farmer's market in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, where Anne Beiler and her husband Jonas sold a variety of snacks, including fresh, soft pretzels. Anne and Jonas tried different combinations of ingredients to make their pretzels until they found the one recipe that was better than the best, and Auntie Anne's was born.

The company has grown to support over 900 locations, including the Philippines, worldwide. It has a three-fold philosophy: to provide a premium product, a sparkling clean store, and friendly customer service.

This Christmas, avail yourself of Auntie Anne's "12 Bites of Christmas" promo. Get a free dozen pretzels on your 12th visit to Auntie Anne's. Tel. No. 929-3935

Yellow Cab Pizzaiole of mind

OFFICE PARTIES [illegible] gimmick days [illegible] family outings in the mall won't be a smash without the all-American pan pizza [illegible] Yellow Cab Pizza Co. [illegible] pizza [illegible] with a big bowl of [illegible] Yellow Cab Pizza Co. [illegible] pizza [illegible] has [illegible] fully grown into [illegible]

According to Yellow Cab, it's with the great pizza [illegible] in the U.S. New York [illegible] Pizza, Hawaiian Pizza, thrill food fare inspired Gravity Grain Chicken Pasta [illegible] Wings, and Grilled Cookie.

Of course, Yellow Cab offers other varieties of pizza and food combinations. If you're not in the NY mood, Pizza Pizza Mind you could always try their Cabo Mushroom pizza filled with [illegible] button and oyster mushroom, Anchovy Lover's pizza filled with [illegible] and whole [illegible] and [illegible]

Other pizza [illegible] Mediterranean Lover's cheese, Garden Special, Hawaiian and Four Seasons, which really [illegible] simple combination of pizzas starting with NY Classic, Cheese, Anchovy Lover's, Roasted Shrimp, Yellow Cab pizza party celebrations range from P5,000 to P10,500 and recommended for gatherings of 20 person, 30 person and 50 person. And for [illegible] Yellow Cab provides menu P500 worth of [illegible] cheques which food purchases from P5,000. Sage of chicken and [illegible] Yellow Cab. Tel. No. 422-9888

Tea Bar Famous lunch portions

DIMSUM DUMPLINGS, WHICH made dumplings [illegible] popular [illegible] food in many food [illegible] mall, [illegible] Tea Bar, [illegible] and with the establishment of the Tea Bar [illegible] very [illegible] five famous lunch portions [illegible] from the delectable plate of dimsum.

The Tea Bar affordable lunch portions [illegible] the big hearty [illegible] of Hainan chicken [illegible] spicy squid [illegible] on top of fried rice sprinkled with veggie [illegible] with choppy [illegible] beef with chopsuey [illegible] combo [illegible] with [illegible] Shanghai [illegible] with pork dumplings and spicy Japu filler [illegible] with braised vegetables. Price range from P59 to P89 only.

If the hefty lunch portions aren't enough to fill one's stomach, diners can opt for unlimited rice refills with the "rice wide open" promo.

For those who want light meals, there's the Dimsum Family Pack. The big plate has 12 delicious varieties, each piece worth dipping in to the mixture of chilies and soy sauce.

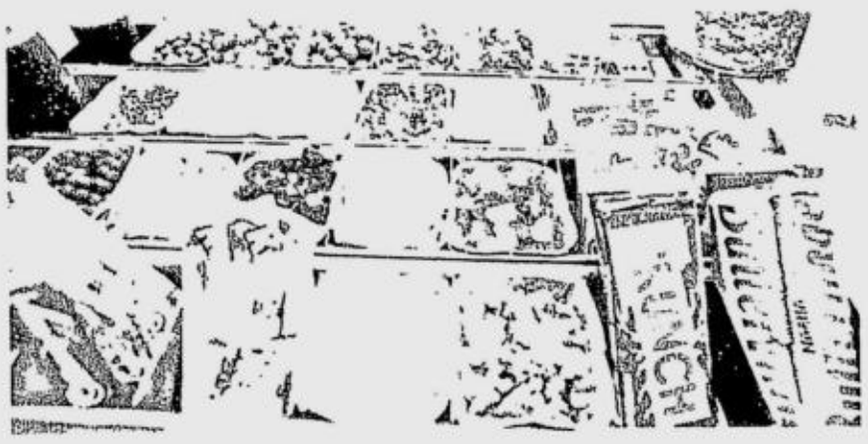
There [illegible] children's party packages which allows diners several options to accommodate the party food needs of small to big gatherings. The party packages are very within budget ceiling with the price range only from P89 to P169. For inquiries, call 721-9695 to 98 locals 112 and 113.

Holiday Gimik time

Trends

Snack Time for the Season

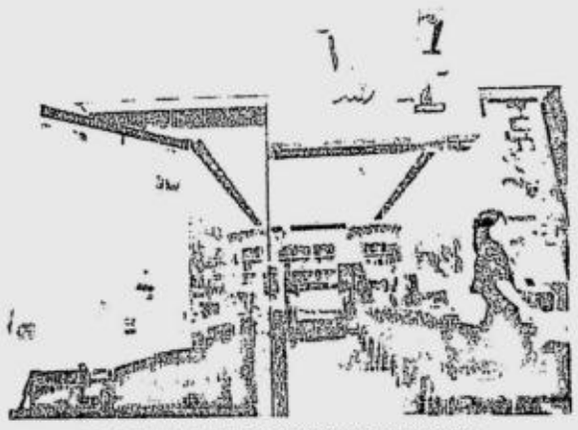
Cerealicious: Create your own



CEREALICIOUS IS A FAST-FOOD RESTAURant offering various cereals--Post, Nestle and Kellogs with milk and a wide range of additional toppings. It gives cereals the local flavor.

A unique idea, it gives diners various ways to enjoy cereals. "Create Your Own" allows consumers to try out assorted cereal brands with either dry or low-fat milk, with toppings like nuts, fruits, cookies, and candies such as gummy bears.

Cerealicious has six branches at The Block, SM North Edsa; University of Santo Tomas, Manila; Sherwood Complex, Taft Avenue; SM Megamall; Theater Mall, Greenhills, and SM City San Lazaro. Tel. No. 442-0022



Have a taste of RotiMum, Singapore's best bun

THE SINGAPORE homegrown Roti Mum, rated as Singapore's Best coffee bun by The Sunday Times, is now serving its most popular product Roti Mum Coffee Bun at The Block.

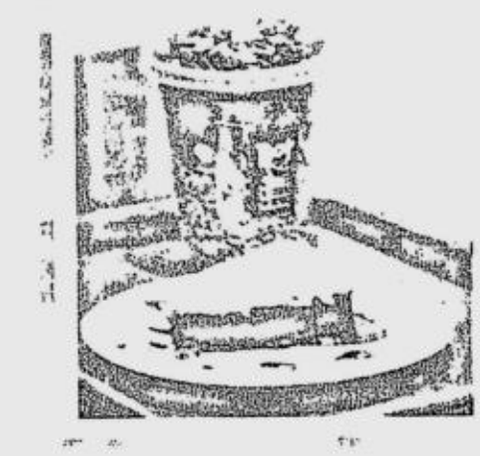
Roti Mum SM North EDSA, on the fourth level of The Block, introduces to Filipino diners its astonishing "magical" buns.

Roti Mum Coffee Bun is crispy but with a cotton-soft inner bun that feels like melted butter.

Roti Mum bun is a surprising mix of sweetness and saltiness. Customers are in for a real treat as buns are prepared and cooked fresh daily and sold still warm on the counter.

Roti Mum's open bakeshop concept is all about freshness and quality preparation.

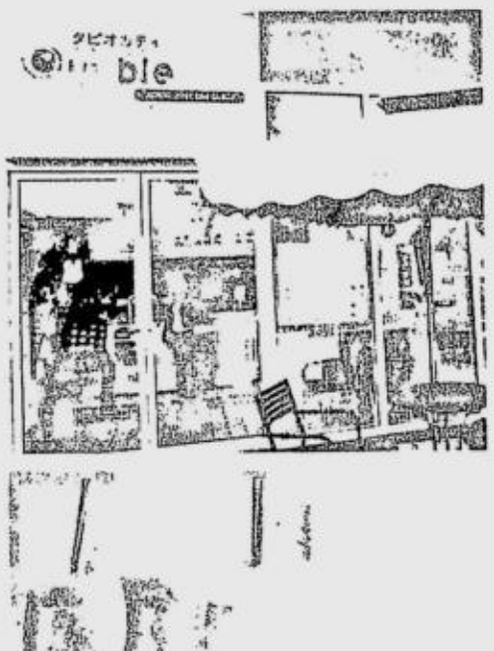
This Christmas Season, Roti Mum offers the new Chocolate Flavored Buns with its best selling coffee buns. Beautiful boxes of six are available for take home and for Christmas gift giving.

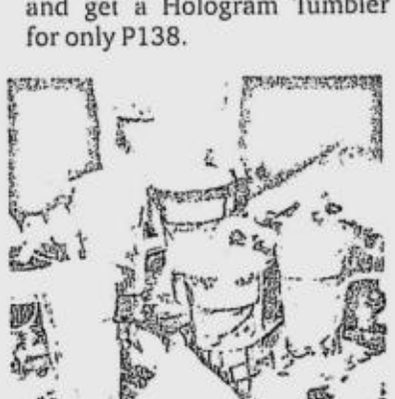


Dunkin Donuts: 52 varities

Dunkin' Donuts is the world's largest coffee and baked goods chain, serving more than 3 million customers a day. Dunkin' Donuts sells 52 varieties of donuts and more than a dozen coffee beverages as well as an array of bagels, breakfast sandwiches and other baked goods.

Buy a dozen Dunkin Donuts and get a Hologram Tumbler for only P138.





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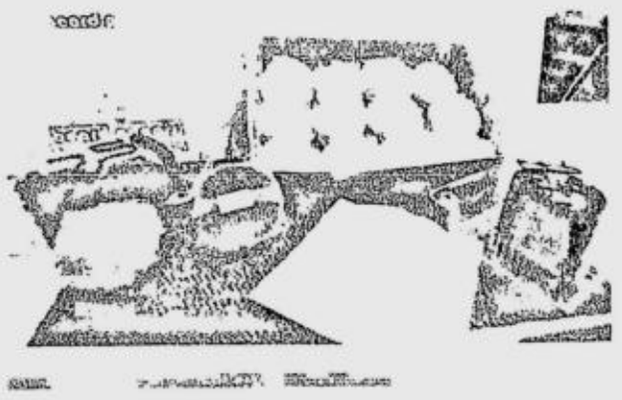

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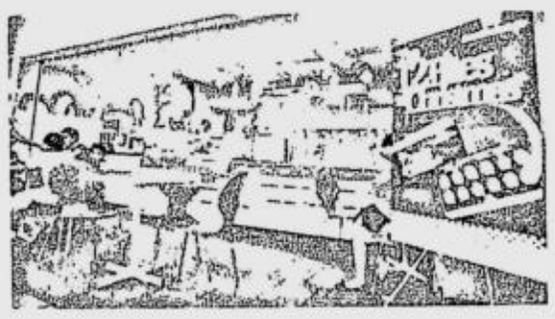

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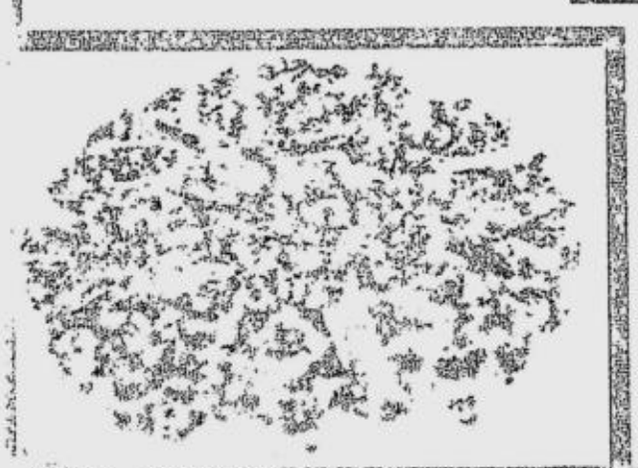

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

JOB Market

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007
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www.jobmarketonline.com

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
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"As one ... ...leading providers of ... ...er

...it." Th... ...challeng... ...through ...demand... ...manage... ...mount...

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- at least 6 months recruitment experience required

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Customer Service Associates -*Semi-Technical Account*
Team Leaders - *for Technical, Insurance & Chat Account*
Quality Evaluators
Spanish-Speaking Quality Evaluators
HR Officer
HR Specialist
Recruitment Coordinators (*2 positions*)
Network Service Engineer
communication Coach

OPENINGS IN COMMONWEALTH:

Customer Service Associates- *Satellite TV Account*
Customer Service Associates- *Automotive Account*
Customer Service Associates- *Technical Support (Full Time)*
Customer Service Associates- *Technical Support (Part Time)*
Operations Manager - *Technical Account*
Workforce Management Specialist
Recruitment Officer
Recruitment Specialist
HR Officer

• Please email resumes to *rachel.ramirez@convergys.com*

OPENINGS IN MAKATI:

Customer Service Associates - *Technical support*
Customer Service Associates
Sourcing Coordinator
Sr. Branding Officer
Purchasing Associate (*Contractual*)
Benefits Associate (*Contractual*)
Recruitment Officer

OPENINGS IN ORTIGAS:

Outbound Collections Representatives
Customer Service Associates- *Financial and Sales*
Customer Service Associates- *Technical*
Customer Service Associate-*Korean Speaking*
Sourcing Associate
Compliance Manager*- *Financial Account*
Data Network Manager*

• Please email resumes to *aireen.grace.a.palafox@convergys.com*

OPENINGS IN U-BELT:

Recruitment Associate *(Contractual)*

Our office at the U-Belt is, likewise, accepting applications for all Convergys sites.

CATCH US ON THESE DATES FOR OUR JOB FAIRS / CAMPUS EVENTS

Dec 7-9 - Ayala Center Cebu
(Rotunda Area 2 fronting Blue Magic)
Dec 1 - 15 - Recruitment Kiosk
(Groundfloor lobby, i2 Bldg., Asiatown, IT, Park)
Dec 10-16- 2nd Level Festival Mall, Alabang
Dec. 14-16 Paseo Marina, Ayala Center Cebu (fronting Guess)

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- P5,000 upon completion of product training
- P5,000 on the 90th day of employment

CONVERGYS is committed to the career growth of its agents, team leaders, senior team leaders and operations managers through its highly-structured career path and an intensive Management Development Program.

*Walk-in applicants in casual attire will be entertained until December.

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(02) 758-1558 / 7581553

CEBU BANAWA OFFICE
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate, Banawa Hills, Cebu City
(032) 4165810

CEBU ASIATOWN IT PARK OFFICE
11/F i2 Bldg. Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City
(032) 4119217 / 4119218

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Ave. Diliman, Quezon City
(02) 756-7019 / 756/200

MAKATI OFFICE
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02) 792 - 3182 / 7923136

ORTIGAS OFFICE
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02) 756-7274 / 8577652

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Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
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SANDVIK

Sandvik Mining and Construction is a business area within the Sandvik Group and a leading global supplier of machinery, cemented-carbide tools, service and technical solutions for the excavation of rock and minerals in the mining and construction industries.

We are seeking for people who are passionate about their work and possess the drive to excel to join us as:

WORKSHOP/SERVICE MANAGER

The business is expected to experience rapid growth in underground and surface equipment including drilling rigs and associated tools, loaders and trucks. Key to developing the business will be a strong focus on the service, parts and contracts business, and associated service business.

This position is strongly customer focused, requiring an in-depth understanding of the customer's business. Success will depend on the ability to develop a motivated team, to meet customers' expectations.

The person should possess a tertiary education in Engineering and/or Technical course graduate with a minimum of 3 years supervisory experience of Service personnel. Actual hands on experience working with heavy equipment preferred.

PERSONNEL HIRED ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL ROLES WITHIN THE COMPANY:

1. Plan workshop activities to fully utilize available manpower complement.
2. Lead a group of technician/service oriented personnel to ensure implementation of set standards and programs related but not limited to safety, health and service quality.
3. Conceptualize process improvement programs within assigned area of responsibility.
4. Liaise with third party contractors when concerns related to outsourced parts and services arise to ensure timely delivery of commitments given to external customers.
5. Coordinate with internal customers (i.e. Account Managers, Operations Manager) on issues related to settlement of external customer concerns.

Interested applicants may send in applications with full resume, photograph, current/ expected salaries, and contact number to:

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- Holder of a management level certificate (PRC Certificate of Registration) with at least 24 months sea-going experience as chief mate or second engineer officer.
- With at least two (2) years teaching experience; and completed the IMO Model Course 6.09 and IMO Model Course 3.12 or its equivalent
- Possesses the Vision, Knowledge, Drive and Leadership to steer and maintain the Academy to become a Center for Excellence in Maritime Education and become internationally recognized based on the IMO/STCW'95.

Interested applicants may send their Letter of Application, Resumé, Certified True Copy of Transcript of Records with Special Order Number, Diploma, Board Rating, SSS Number, TIN and 2 x 2 ID photo to the:

Human Resource Management & Development Office
P.O. Box No. 1151

Product/Fashion Designer
for Upscale Consumer Products

Who We Are Looking For:
- Exceptionally sensitive and culturally aware, artistically talented & fashion oriented person who can interpret and translate contemporary feminine tastes in fashion, color, design and lifestyle into a commercially successful line of visually appealing packaged confectionery products.
- Should be extremely aware of, sensitive to and interested in contemporary feminine tastes. Interests should therefore include women's fashion, cooking, entertaining, grooming, personal style magazines and mass media programs (TV, movies, video) directed towards female audiences.
- Proficient in English communication.
- A graduate of a qualified art, fashion or design program or school.
- Previous work experience in the women's fashion industry preferred but not necessary. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- Knowledge of chocolate or candy is NOT a requirement.

Your Job Description:
- Responsible for conceptualizing and designing a full line of seasonal confectionery products and packaging (5 - 7 Seasons).
- Work closely with US and Asian marketing and sales managers to develop a wide range of possible products to fit into specific retail price points.
- Create the look (and feel) of the products and packaging within the available cost structure for raw and packaging materials and labor.
- Design and create product prototypes with production managers.
- Source packaging materials from vendors.

Your Incentive:
- Generous compensation package.
- Travel to China, HongKong and the United States.
- Flexible time schedule.
- Opportunity to learn international fashion and retail trends from an industry leader.

*The Company is an equal-opportunity employer and accepting of alternative lifestyles and encourages all interested candidates to apply including openly **gay** and/or **transgendered** individuals. The Company plans to conduct personal interviews in Manila during the week of January 21, 2008.*

Please send a personal statement (in letter form) describing who you are and why you feel you would be the ideal candidate for this position, along with your resume and qualifications to both:
Mark Haley at Mark Haley Marketing: **mhmrktg@yahoo.com**
& Dee M. Tumlos at: **mendoza.consulting@yahoo.com**

You may also mail your documents to:
Dee M. Tumlos
904 Perla Mansion, C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

To know more about The Company, please visit http://www.multizen.com & http://www.chocolatschristina.com

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- ✓ Can handle Sales, Marketing and Product Development
- ✓ Willing to travel
- ✓ Must possess a Professional Driver's License

Please email resume with picture to:
bsv_vetnext@pacific.net.ph
Office Located at Pasig City

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20-40 yrs old; w/ 1-2 yrs experience; Accounting Graduate; Computer Literate; Knowledge with the use of MYOB is an advantage but not necessary

Apply personally at:
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Email: jacquifoodcorp@yahoo.com / bsuutay@yahoo.com

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Tel 642-6068 / 642-6148 Look for Ms. Salud

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IFC International Finance Corporation World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, has been active in the Philippines for more than 40 years and established an office in Manila in 1977. To complement its growing investments, IFC is expanding its advisory services to include public-private partnerships and private sector development. IFC is focusing on Mindanao and opened an office in Davao City in 2006. As part of its advisory services, IFC with support from the Governments of Australia and Canada, established a multilateral program to support the development of small and medium enterprises.

To Further Its Advisory Services Work,
IFC is Seeking Expressions of Interest
From Business Development Service Providers With Agribusiness Sector Expertise

Scope of the Work

IFC advisory services are developing program activities in the high value fresh fruit sector in and around Davao City. The work is projected to start in the first quarter of 2008 and will be carried out in close collaboration with the private sector. One of the primary objectives is to improve the integration of smallholder farmers into the value chain. A specific activity identified is to develop the business management skills and capacity of smallholder farmers. The program will be developed using a pilot scheme approach, with further activities dependent on the results of the pilot. IFC is seeking expressions of interest from BDSP organizations who can demonstrate a track record of successfully delivering similar services within the agribusiness sector.

Desired Requirements

1. Demonstrated competency in providing business development services for farmer groups in Mindanao
2. Experience in the high value fruit sector (Pineapples, Bananas)
3. Must show financial capacity to undertake the proposed activity
4. Good knowledge of, and contacts in the high value fruit sector in both the public and private sectors
5. Have developed and can demonstrate a range of appropriate training programs and activities with associated training materials and aides
6. Provider personnel fluent in English, Tagalog and appropriate local languages
7. Ability to comply with World Bank vendor eligibility requirements

Interested organizations should submit expressions of interest and provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services outlined. This might include brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar locations; availability of appropriate skills amongst staff etc. These should be E-mailed to **KVInluan@ifc.org** not later than close of business Monday 30th December 2007. All proposals will be treated in strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org.

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> Interested applicants may contact 4902992
> You may visit us on the 18F at Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
> Email a text-only resume to: hr_manila@accessww.com or fax it to 7291494
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- Must have at least 2 years work experience in Sales, preferably with handling Dealers and must be willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon.

Qualified applicants should mail comprehensive resumé, 2x2 ID picture, copy of diploma, transcript of records, employment history references, etc. to:

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Email address: otsi-mla@pldtdsl.net

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Applicants may bring: Bio-data/Resumé, Brgy. Clearance/Police Clearance
Time: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m./Mondays thru Fridays
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0915-3411027 / 0918-6713643 / 0922-2383052
Look for : Jigs
Text or Call: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

MP3 players are helping make today's hectic lifestyles just a little more enjoyable.

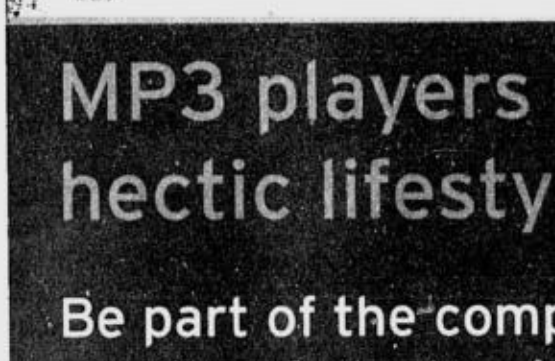
Be part of the company whose test systems help ensure the quality of electronics used in our everyday lives.

We're the test experts behind many of today's electronics products–cell phones, portable music players, gaming systems, automotive electronics and more. Teradyne's customers are the world's leading electronics companies, and we ride the wave of technical innovation and change every day. It's an exciting, dynamic business, and we need talented people who can contribute right away.

Out-of-Production Marketing Specialist
(to be based in Cebu)

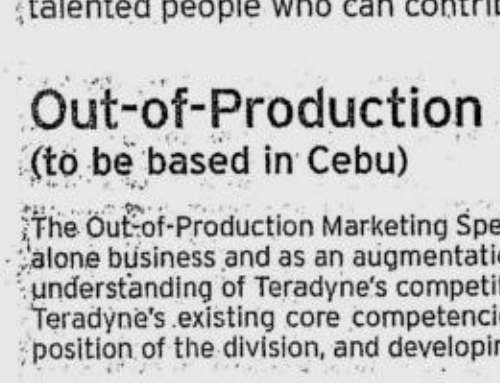
The Out-of-Production Marketing Specialist will be responsible for understanding the requirements of a service business as both a stand-alone business and as an augmentation to Teradyne's out-of-production business. S/he will also be responsible for developing a thorough understanding of Teradyne's competitive position, positioning out-of-production products, developing new service products that leverage Teradyne's existing core competencies, growing our service revenue and integration within the service team to improve the strategic position of the division, and developing the organizational capability of the marketing function.

Requirements
The successful candidate will have 5-10 years of previous marketing/sales experience along with demonstrated leadership, the ability to communicate effectively at a broad range of level of abstraction and management levels, and strong quantitative and qualitative problem solving skills. S/he should be a passionate and energetic specialist with strong leadership and customer focused skills.



For interested and qualified applicants, please visit **http://www.teradyne.com/hr/jobs.html** to submit your application and résumé, or email them to michelle.siarez@teradyne.com.
Submission deadline: December 14, 2007

TERADYNE
Because Testing Matters



From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: **INQUIRER**

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

Provincial Administrative-cum-Finance Assistants (2)

Under the overall guidance of the UNFPA Provincial Project Coordinator and the technical guidance of the UNFPA Administrative and Finance Associate, the UNFPA Provincial Administrative–cum-Finance Assistants will be hired for the provinces of Bohol and Eastern Samar. They will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Assist the Provincial Project Coordinator and the designated Provincial/ Municipal Focal Persons in the establishment of the Provincial/Municipal Project Management Units (PMUs) and in the installation of the administrative and financial systems and procedures in these project units.
2. Handle all correspondence and communications pertaining to the provincial and municipal UNFPA projects. Take charge of records management and provide secretarial services such as minutes taking, accepting and making phone calls, etc.
3. Attend to the administrative needs of the projects including procurement and distribution of office supplies and equipment and their maintenance.
4. Handle all financial transactions of the provincial and municipal projects. Closely monitor the status of funds utilization in the province and municipalities.
5. Assist the province and municipalities in the accomplishment of financial forms and preparation of reports, on a quarterly basis, and consolidate them for submission to UNFPA Finance in Manila.
6. Coordinate the conduct of the provincial and municipal audits.
7. Perform other tasks that may be assigned by the UNFPA Area Officer, UNFPA AFA, or the Provincial Project Coordinator.

Essential Specifications and Competencies:

- Must be a graduate of business administration, accounting or HR-related courses, preferably a CPA.
- Must have at least 5 years of experience in accounting and finance, administration and human resource management, working with foreign-assisted projects.
- Familiarity with UNFPA rules and procedures is an asset
- Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, PowerPoint and internet applications.
- Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Demonstrates and promotes teamwork, integrity and impartiality in all matters affecting his/ her work.
- Willing to travel to depressed and disadvantaged areas and be based in the province of assignment.

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in www.unfpa.org/about/employment/p-11.doc to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1,
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue,
1229 Makati City, Philippines

or through email: jtraquina@unfpa.org. All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Ms. Ma. Antonina Ducusin of UNFPA Manila by email: ducusin@unfpa.org

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

Salary : Negotiable based on experience and qualifications
Deadline for submission of applications : December 21, 2007
UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer.

HealthGov
Strengthening Local Governance for Health

The **Strengthening Local Governance for Health (HealthGov) Project** is a USAID-funded project supporting the government's efforts to provide improved basic health services in partnership with over 550 local government units (LGUs) throughout the Philippines.

HealthGov is in search of a qualified team member for the following key position:

Health Policy and Systems Specialist

Code: PSS-01

Responsibilities:
Based at the national project office in Manila, the Health Policy and Systems Specialist provides technical assistance in the areas of (i) strengthening LGU management systems; (ii) improving and expanding LGU financing for health, and; (iii) increasing advocacy for health. The Specialist will work as a member of the LGU Governance Team with the following main responsibilities:

- Provide technical assistance on local policy and systems development for health financing, social insurance, contraceptive self-reliance (CSR), and other areas;
- Support training and capacity building activities for local policy and health systems development and implementation;
- Identify, plan and coordinate project activities with national, regional and local government and non-government counterparts;
- Research and document field experiences, good practices and lessons learned;
- Prepare monthly work plans and progress reports for the LGU Governance Team;
- Contribute to other project reports such as annual work plans and M&E reports.

Qualifications:

- Post graduate degree in Public Administration, Economics, or other relevant field;
- A minimum of 5 years experience in local health policy development and implementation: knowledge of health financing, social health insurance, CSR policies;
- Experience in liaising and coordinating with national, regional and local government agencies, with respect to technical assistance development and implementation;
- At least 5 years experience working on donor-funded projects (prior USAID project experience an advantage);
- Ability to function well in a dynamic environment and as part of a small team of dedicated experts;
- Willingness to travel extensively to the Project sites throughout the Philippines.

Please send an application letter together with your curriculum vitae not later than **December 20, 2007** to:

e-mail: info2007healthgov@gmail.com
fax: (+632) 706-1419
mail: Chief of Party
HealthGov Project - RTI International
Lower Penthouse 3203-3204
Tycoon Centre Condominium
Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center
1605 Pasig City

RTI INTERNATIONAL

(Please indicate the position code on the envelope or in the subject heading of your email).

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEER

A multinational company engaged in sales, marketing & distribution of exclusive technical industrial products in the Philippines is in urgent need of a sales engineer for its 2008 business expansion. The applicant must be aggressive dynamic and must have the following qualifications:

- Engineering course graduate (Mechanical, Electrical or Industrial Engineering);
- Must have engineering background in Mechanical, Electrical or Industrial Engineering;
- Experience in selling technical products;
- Good in verbal and written English;
- Computer literate in MS Office;
- Possess driving skills with driver's license

The company offers the following: (i) competitive salary; (ii) travel and meal allowance; (iii) sales commission; (iv) health care plan; and, (v) local and international training.

Interested applicants are requested to send the following requirements: (i) complete resumé with detailed work experience; (ii) latest ID photo; and, (iii) school and employment record to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
E-mail address: human_resource_department@yahoo.com
Fax No.: 02-8136158

JOB Market VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

SANDVIK

Sandvik Mining and Construction is a business area within the Sandvik Group and a leading global supplier of machinery, cemented-carbide tools, service and technical solutions for the excavation of rock and minerals in the mining and construction industries.

We are seeking for people who are passionate about their work and possess the drive to excel to join us as:

PARTS AND TOOLS SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The business is expected to experience rapid growth in underground and surface equipment including drilling rigs and associated tools, loaders and trucks. Key to developing the business will be a strong focus on the service, parts and contracts business, and associated service business.

This position is strongly customer focused, requiring an in-depth understanding of the customer's business. Success will depend on the ability to develop a motivated team, to meet customers' expectations.

The person should possess a degree in Mining or other Engineering courses with actual experience in doing field sales calls in the Mining or Construction industry.

PERSONNEL HIRED ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL ROLES WITHIN THE COMPANY:

1. Generate parts and rocktool sales thru customer visits and interaction with external customer.
2. Gather, study and analyze competitive information to come up with suggestions in finalizing marketing plans for products being promoted.
3. Conduct field studies and gather data needed for performance benchmarking purpose.

Interested applicants may send in applications with full resumé, photograph, current/expected salaries, and contact number to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Sandvik Tamrock (Philippines) Inc.
Km 20, East Service Road
South Superhighway 1770, Muntinlupa City
stpi@sandvik.com

SANDVIK

Sandvik Mining and Construction is a business area within the Sandvik Group and a leading global supplier of machinery, cemented-carbide tools, service and technical solutions for the excavation of rock and minerals in the mining and construction industries.

We are seeking for people who are passionate about their work and possess the drive to excel to join us as:

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

The business is expected to experience rapid growth in underground and surface equipment including drilling rigs and associated tools, loaders and trucks. Key to developing the business will be a strong focus on the service, parts and contracts business, and associated service business.

This position is strongly customer focused, requiring an in-depth understanding of the customer's business. Success will depend on the ability to develop a motivated team, to meet customers' expectations.

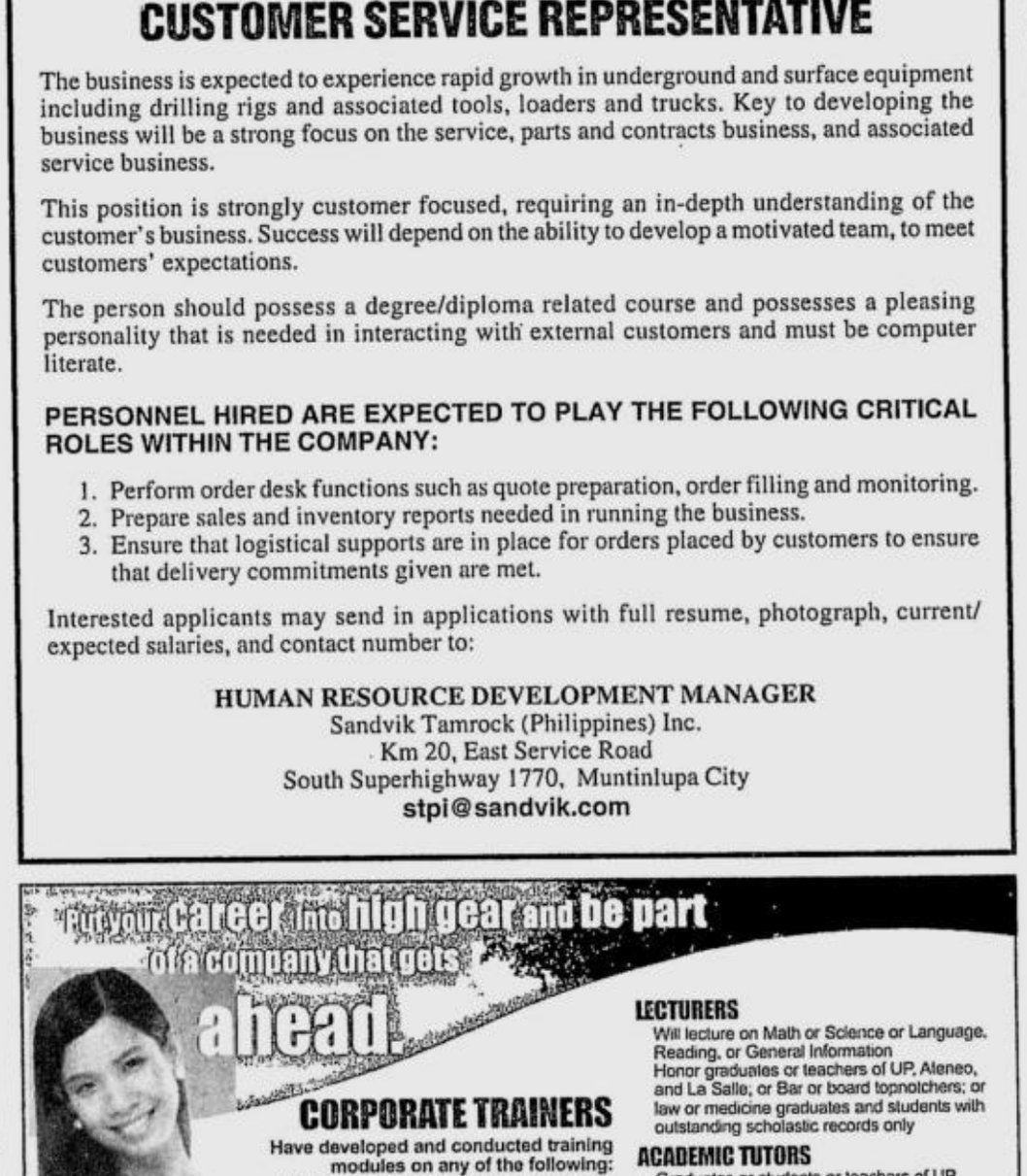
The person should possess a degree/diploma related course and possesses a pleasing personality that is needed in interacting with external customers and must be computer literate.

PERSONNEL HIRED ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL ROLES WITHIN THE COMPANY:

1. Perform order desk functions such as quote preparation, order filling and monitoring.
2. Prepare sales and inventory reports needed in running the business.
3. Ensure that logistical supports are in place for orders placed by customers to ensure that delivery commitments given are met.

Interested applicants may send in applications with full resume, photograph, current/ expected salaries, and contact number to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Sandvik Tamrock (Philippines) Inc.
Km 20, East Service Road
South Superhighway 1770, Muntinlupa City
stpi@sandvik.com



URGENT NEED

- MALE / FEMALE
- 22-30 years old
- Accounting graduate
- CPA License is an advantage
- Computer Literate
- W/ experience in Accounting/ Auditing

Please apply and bring your credentials to:
6-H Vernida I Building,
120 Amorsolo St.,
Makati City
Tel. No. 759-37-44
to 45

FOR HIRING

CIVIL ENGINEER / ESTIMATOR

- w/ experience is an advantage
- w/ license is an advantage
- must be 25 years old & above

please submit resumé at:
727 Laguna Ext.,
Tondo, Manila
or call 253-9934 / 251-3656
look for Kaye or Jo

Negotiating with NLP

EVER WONDER WHY some people sell and negotiate with ease and effectiveness? What is it that they say or do that often turns all dealings to their favor? Where do they acquire the creativity and the intuition to influence others so powerfully?

Many of them, consciously or unconsciously, use thinking and communicating methods that generate the influence in a suave and a subliminal manner known to experts as Neuro Linguistic Programming or NLP.

This Dec. 10, at Sofitel Philippines, Raju Mandhyan, in partnership with AIREEC, brings to you a workshop that will help you master these powerful yet subtle techniques in a structured and a fun way. For more information log on to www.mandhyan.com or send an email to villenashiela@yahoo.com

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ANNOUNCEMENT to our valued advertisers

PDI Kalaw branch

has been transferred to

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg.,
490 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila
(In front of National Library)

To serve your advertising needs, please call

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loc. 115 or 116
525-7381
(Classifieds)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

VISIT US AT
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You can now checkout more jobs from JobMarket Libre everyday!

Inquire about the Job Market package at 897-8808 loc. 514

JOB Market
Find a career in here

HYUNDAI ELITE DEALER

HYUNDAI BALINTAWAK

is in need of:

Customer Relations Assistant Manager

- Graduate of any four-year course
- With at least 3-5 years of related work experience preferably in an automotive industry
- Demonstrates strong communication skills (both verbal and written), and customer service skills
- Knowledgeable in the use of the Internet and MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

Field Sales Executives

- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable university.
- Excellent academic records and outstanding leadership skills.
- Adept at client sourcing and product presentation.
- Male or Female with pleasing personality / Male at least 5'8" tall, Female, at least 5'4" tall.
- Preferably with at least 1 year experience.
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are requested to mail or email their updated resume, 2 pcs. 2x2 photos and photocopy of transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Management Division

Hyundai Balintawak
EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City

Contact Nos.
362-0101 / Cel No. 0928-7742945

email: hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph

not later than Dec. 22, 2007

LausAutoGroup
A Passion for Cars & Customer Care.

The **University Research Co. LLC (URC)** seeks a Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Advisor and Family Planning (FP) Specialist for its USAID funded Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPRO) in the Philippines. This project is working with the Department of Health and local institutions to assist LGUs in 29 provinces in the promotion of healthy behaviors in the country.

BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION ADVISOR

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Propose and define performance indicators for an effective and efficient implementation of a BCC program using interpersonal communication and counseling (IPC/C) as well as mass media channels;
2. Lead in the inventory, documentation and packaging of BCC approaches with focus on IPC/C including support tools and materials for wider dissemination and efficient replication;
3. Review BCC models and tools on IPC/C and enhance their quality by ensuring that they are in compliance with standards and best practices in audience-centered communication;
4. Explore ways for the effective integration of health messages to maximize impact of BCC interventions;
5. Provide technical assistance and advice to LGUs and other local partners in the areas of integrated local HPC planning, implementation and monitoring;
6. Review and/or develop training modules for application and implementation of BCC focusing on IPC/C interventions for various audiences; and
7. Determine need for short-term BCC consultants, prepare scope of work for these consultants, identify appropriate individuals and prepare needed documents to engage their services.

Desired Qualifications:

- Master's degree in communication, social/behavioral sciences or other related fields;
- At least 8 years of documented advanced experience in capacity building; and designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating BCC programs using interpersonal communication and mass media channels;
- Solid experience in advising and working with high level national and local officials, communication practitioners, service providers and information workers;
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the social-cultural environment in the Philippines;
- Familiarity and understanding of the issues related to health programs supported under the SO3 portfolio and the dynamics surrounding the health sector at national and local level including concerns on health promotions and communication; and
- Filipino national.

FAMILY PLANNING SPECIALIST

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Provide technical support to all FP related activities such as but not limited to oversight on the content, appropriateness and relevance of messages of all FP communication materials developed by the project;
2. Collaborate with key staff and the field coordinators in the development of FP-specific communication program and activities at the central and field levels;
3. Provide recommendations to DOH/NCHP and LGUs on specific FP related activities and programs;
4. Liaise with PopCom and other government and private sector partners on the development and implementation of FP communications programs;
5. Act as the lead person responsible in supporting the needs of appropriate TWG and participate in joint planning sessions of all USAID CAs involved in FP program;
6. Contribute to the completion of quarterly and annual project activity reports, work plans and project implementation plans as specified in the SOW; and
7. Assist with data collection and monitoring activities as needed.

Desired Qualifications:

- MD or postgraduate degree in public health, medical science or related field;
- At least 5 years experience in working with government and/or donor structure supported FP program in the Philippines;
- Familiarity with health promotion and communication program;
- Strong verbal and written communication skills; and
- Filipino national.

Application Instructions:
Send application letter and CV to: **gperla@urc-chs.com** by December 21, 2007. No telephone inquiries, please.

***** FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING *****

1.) SALES PROMO
Female, Single, at least College Level, 20-25 years old, with pleasing personality, at least 5'2" in height.
willing to be assigned in any prescribed area

2.) SALES COORDINATOR
Female, Single, preferably College Graduate 24-28 years old

3.) ACCOUNTING CLERK
Female, Single, below 30 years of age preferably BS-Accounting graduate

4.) OFFICE CLERK
Female, Single, below 30 years of age College Graduate of BS in Business Course

5.) DELIVERY PERSONNEL
Male, Single, at least High School graduate, 19-25 years old

6.) REPACKER
Male, Single, at least High School graduate, 19-25 years old

Qualified applicants, please call # 243-0677, # 244-9068 for scheduled interviews.
e-mail address: paganini@pldtdsl.net

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ironroadR MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

BytAx SYSTEMS INC.

IRONROAD is a world leader in the development of innovative and easy-to-use interactive mobile video services. We have offices in Stockholm, Manila, Moscow and Jakarta. The company is now in an expansion phase and we need talented staff to grow with us. We offer excellent career opportunities.

SYSTEM ENGINEERS

- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology or other related training
- Knowledgeable in NET Framework 3.0, PHP, JAVA Script, HTML, CSS, RRDTools, MySQL, C#, VB.NET, C++, J#, Vector-based Graphics
- Knowledge in Windows Presentation Foundation is a big plus
- Preferably with at least 3 years working experience

MATHEMATICIAN

- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics or other related training
- Specializing 3D Algorithms, Tree/Nodes, Statistics (presentation of algorithms)

VIDEO DESIGNERS

- Fluent skills in Photoshop, After Effects Adobe, Premiere, Illustrator and handling of voice recordings
- Additional skills in 3D design, Flash and web design is a plus
- Natural feeling for design

MARKETING PROJECT MANAGER

- Master of Business Administration or similar degree. No work experience required
- Work with Senior expatriate staff in Manila to develop and manage cross-functional marketing projects utilizing project management methodologies.
- Create business plans, financial models, and data analysis as needed for various marketing initiatives.

SALES MANAGER

- High level education in Marketing or similar training
- Responsibilities: liaising with customers; recruiting and training sales staff; supervising, motivating & monitoring team performance; setting budgets/targets;
- Working experience within the telecom business preferred

IN-HOUSE LAWYER

- Specializing in Commercial Law with preferably two years experience working as an assistant lawyer
- To work with Senior expatriate staff in Manila in handling all legal issues within the company; in general to assist the legal counsel of the company in drafting of contracts, writing memos, etc.

Interested applicants may apply personally at:

BytAx Systems, Inc.
BytAx Business Building, 1201 Vito Cruz Ext.,
Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Makati City
Tel. Nos. +63-897-2274 / 899-7004 / 896-9510
Email : info@bytax.com
look for Ms. Terry Amista

Accounting Clerk

- single female 21 years & above
- accounting graduate
- experienced & proficient in Excel & Word
- fluent in English

Call Jean at 7276997 / 6841 / 7791; 09209456950 / 09228380834

PROJECT ENGINEER

Civil Engr. graduate, computer literate, w/ 3 yrs experience in Roads & Bridges, familiar w/ DPWH foreign assisted project

PROJECT ARCHITECT

Has knowledge in Autocad, 3D Max & Project Implementation

Send your Resumé at 249 Quirino Highway, Baesa, Quezon City or E-mail at persan_inc@yahoo.com

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Managing emotions at the workplace

AS YOU FACE A LARGER workload, tighter deadlines and greater demands on personal time, you're likely to find yourself in situations where you need help identifying and managing emotions in the workplace. American Management Association will conduct a seminar on Managing Emotions at the Workplace on Dec. 13 and 14 at Mandarin Oriental, Makati. For inquiries, call 7596680 and look for Jasmin or email to jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph

Environmental conflict management seminar

A TWO-DAY COURSE WILL BE HELD on Dec. 11 and 12 at ECI Training Center, Unit E, 9th Floor, Strata 100 Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, on Environmental conflict, designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to deal with and resolve conflicts.

This course is ideal for project developers and implementers, LGU and NGO planners, financial planners, engineers and project managers, as well as pollution control officers and environmental personnel. For more info, contact ARIVA at 8958058, 8959527 or 8909651. Email at successseminars@Ariva.com.ph

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VACANCY

An established advertising agency is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following positions:

COPYWRITER

- Preferably an advertising practitioner for at least 2 years
- With great command of the English language
- Knowledge of banking & finance jargons, a definite edge
- Has good communication & coordination skills
- Detail-obsessed, a fast learner & presentable

GRAPHIC DESIGNER / ART DIRECTOR

- Preferably an advertising practitioner for at least 2 years and has experience in planning advertising campaigns
- Knowledgeable & proficient in graphic design programs such as Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, etc. in MAC environment
- Has designed collaterals for banking institutions (an advantage)
- Independent, hardworking & a good team player

Send all comprehensive resumés to
dandeliondesign.bn@gmail.com
complete with ID photo & sample works

HINGE INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today, is in immediate need of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Qualifications:

- At least College Level, preferably with background in Marketing, Sales or any Business course
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Qualifications:

- College Graduate,Major in Advertising, Broadcast Media or Mass Communication
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Preferably with TV Production Experience, Scriptwriting a plus.
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- College Graduate, Major in Marketing, Advertising, or Mass Communication
- Knowledge of marketing concepts
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Knowledge of basic design software applications an advantage (Photoshop, In Design)
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills

hinge inquirer

Interested applicants may send their resumes to any of the ff: jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph, hrd@hip.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tel Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

ANNOUNCEMENT
to our valued advertisers

PDI Kalaw branch has been transferred to:

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg., 490 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
(in front of National Library)

To serve your advertising needs, please call

523-5570 (Trunk Line) loc. 115 or 116
528-0213 (Direct Line)

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), a regional initiative of the Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), is in search of qualified individuals to work as part of the PEMSEA Resource Facility Technical Services to be located in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

POST TITLE : PROGRAMME OFFICER FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
ENTRY LEVEL : NO-B/C (National Officer)

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general supervision of the Executive Director and the direct guidance of the Chief Technical Officer for PRF Technical Services, the Programme Officer for Project Development is responsible for developing, supervising and implementing projects aimed at strengthening the implementation of the SDS-SEA and related coastal strategies and action plans in the region.

The Programme Officer for Project Development provides and coordinates the support functions of Project Development, e.g. State of Coasts, PEMSEA Transformation, Partnership Fund, Manual/Guide Preparation, Case Studies and Project Proposals.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : Master's degree, or equivalent, in natural or social sciences or related field. A post-graduate degree is an advantage.
Experience : At least over three years of relevant experience at an international level, with specialized training and experience in project development and management.
Language Requirements : Proficiency in written and oral communication skills in English. Knowledge of language of any participating country in the region is an advantage.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in standard computer software (word processing, excel, presentations, databases and internet.)

POST TITLE : TECHNICAL OFFICER – PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
ENTRY LEVEL : NO-A (National Officer)

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general supervision of the Chief Technical Officer for PRF Technical Services and the direct guidance of the Programme Officer for Project Development, the Technical Officer is responsible for providing technical assistance in the implementation of the SDS-SEA and related coastal strategies and action plans in the region.

The Technical Officer shall assist the Programme Officer for Project Development in providing and coordinating the support functions of Project Development, e.g. State of Coasts, PEMSEA Transformation, Partnership Fund, Manual/Guide Preparation, Case Studies and Project Proposals particularly in the formulation of project proposals related to the implementation of the SDS-SEA

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : Master's degree or equivalent in natural or social sciences or related field. A post-graduate degree is an advantage.
Experience : At least three years of relevant experience at an international level, with specialized training and experience in project development and management.
Language Requirements : Proficiency in written and oral communication skills in English.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in standard computer software (word processing, excel, presentations, databases and internet.)

POST TITLE : COUNTRY PROGRAMME MANAGERS (2)
ENTRY LEVEL : NO-A/B (National Officers)

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Executive Director and the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Officer for PRF Technical Services, the Country Programme Manager is responsible for the effective management of programme delivery in the assigned countries, e.g. from programme strategy to individual concept and design to technical support for the overall implementation of SDS-SEA activities in the region.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : At least a master's degree in Environmental Science, Coastal Area Management, Planning, Governance, International Relations, or any related, social science discipline.
Experience : At least five years or more development work experience, or work in a related field, preferably with field exposure. Practical experience in coastal area management is essential . Knowledge of the UN System and Programmes is an advantage. Familiarity with the policies, programmes and operating styles of local and national governments that are participating in the project.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in standard computer software (word processing, excel, presentations, databases and internet.)

POST TITLE : COUNTRY PROGRAMME ASSISTANT
ENTRY LEVEL : G-4/5

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer for PRF Technical Services and the direct supervision of the Country Manager, the Country Programme Assistant performs a variety of information collecting, monitoring, technical and administrative services in support of SDS-SEA programme activities.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : At least a university degree in Economics, Business Administration or any discipline of business and Social Sciences.
Experience : At least three to five years related experience, preferably in an international organization. Familiarity with the UN System an advantage.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in standard computer software (word processing, excel, presentations, databases and internet.)

POST TITLE : TECHNICAL OFFICER, PROJECT REPLICATION UNIT
ENTRY LEVEL : NO-A/B (National Officer)

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer for Partnership Applications, the Technical Officer, Project Replication Unit, provides technical support and advice on various matters pertaining to implementation of the Partnership Applications programme in the SDS-SEA in the region.

The Technical Officer works in close collaboration with counterpart officers in the participating countries, other units of the SDS-SEA and UNDP.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : University degree in Law. Master's degree in Business Administration or any discipline of business. Economics and Engineering preferably with advanced studies or training.
Experience : At least five years or more related experience.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Excel) and adequate knowledge and practical experience in handling web-based management systems.

POST TITLE : AUDIT/CERTIFICATION OFFICER
ENTRY LEVEL : NO-A/B (National Officer)

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer for PRF Technical Services and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer for Partnership Applications, the Audit/Certification Officer's primary responsibilities are closely linked to SDS-SEA interventions in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), Integrated Information Management System (IIMS), Port Safety, Health and Environmental Management Systems (PSHEMS), and Integrated Coastal Management Code (ICM).

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : University degree in Business Management, or related social sciences, with extensive training/experience in ISO certification or similar certification processes related to quality management and environmental management systems.
Experience : At least five years or more management auditing experience, preferably in an international organization.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in standard computer software (word processing, excel, presentations, databases and internet.)

POST TITLE : TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (LEARNING CENTER)
ENTRY LEVEL : G-4/5

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer, PRF Technical Services and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer (Learning Center) , the Technical Assistant is tasked to assist in the overall programme and administrative operations of the Unit, particularly in providing support to the Regional Task Force (RTF) and country-based National Task Forces (NTF).

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : At least a university degree in Liberal Arts, Economics, Business Administration, or other related social science disciplines.
Experience : At least three to five years related experience, preferably in an international organization. Familiarity with the UN System an advantage.
Language Requirements : Excellent command of the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project) and adequate knowledge and practical experience in handling web-based management systems.

POST TITLE : TECHNICAL ASSISTANT IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
ENTRY LEVEL : G-4/5

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer, PRF Technical Services and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer for Project Development , the Technical Assistant is tasked to assist in the overall programme and administrative operations of the Unit.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : University degree in Liberal Arts, Economics, Business Administration, or other related social science disciplines.
Experience : At least three to five years related experience, preferably in an international organization. Familiarity with the UN System an advantage.
Language Requirements : Excellent command of the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project) and adequate knowledge and practical experience in handling web-based management systems.

POST TITLE : IT SPECIALIST
ENTRY LEVEL : G-7

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer, the IT Specialist supports the PRF's goal of systematic dissemination of technical, scientific and policy information through an efficient local area network, the PEMSEA website, PEMSEA Gateway, as well as the IIMS network.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : University degree in Information Management or Computer/Management Information System or a related IT degree. Additional certification in IT field is desirable.
Experience : At least five years or more related experience.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Excellent knowledge of Computer Systems and Information Technology. Wide experience in network administration including extensive work with data file analysis and manipulation, user requirement analysis and preparation of documentation and manuals. Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project, Financial Systems) and adequate knowledge and practical experience in designing and handling web-based management systems.

POST TITLE : IT TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
ENTRY LEVEL : G-5

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer for PRF Technical Services and the direct supervision of the IT Specialist, the IT Assistant is primarily in charge of general assistance/advice in reviewing information security, design and software-related issues.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : University degree in Information Technology or any related discipline plus applied practical training in handling information communication systems
Experience : At least five years or more related experience.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project, Financial Systems) and adequate knowledge and practical experience in designing and handling web-based management systems.

POST TITLE : WEBMASTER
ENTRY LEVEL : G-4

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer of the PRF Technical Services and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer (Learning Center), the Webmaster is the focal point for the creative and digital arts required for the production of SDS-SEA publications, multimedia presentations, website and all forms of information materials:

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : University degree in Communication Arts, Computer Science/ Technology, Fine Arts, Advertising, Development Communications or other related discipline complemented by formal training in systems analysis and application.
Experience : At least two to three years or more work experience in web development and design.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : High proficiency in web-related softwares such as macromedia flash, dreamweaver, etc. Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project, Financial Systems) and adequate knowledge and practical experience in handling web-based management systems.

POST TITLE : EDITOR (PUBLICATIONS)
ENTRY LEVEL : G-3

Duties and Responsibilities:
Under the general guidance of the Chief Technical Officer of the PRF Technical Services and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer (Learning Center), the Editor is responsible for all aspects of production of various knowledge products and multimedia materials required by implementers of the SDS-SEA.

Minimum Recruitment Qualifications:
Education : University degree in Communication Arts, Journalism, English, Mass Communication or a related discipline.
Experience : At least five years or more work experience in the field of Communication or a similar field.
Language Requirements : Fluency in the English language, with effective oral and written communication skills.
Other Requirements : Proficiency in the use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project, Financial Systems) and adequate knowledge and practical experience in handling web-based management systems.

Application deadline is on **31 December 2007.** Qualified candidates may submit their application, including a letter of interest, complete Curriculum Vitae and an updated United Nations Personal History Form (P.11) accessible at www.pemsea.org or www.undp.org.ph, via e-mail to info@pemsea.org. Kindly indicate the post title when applying (in the subject line by e-mail). Applications may also be sent by courier or fax to:

PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Office Building
Department of Environment and Natural Resources Compound
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Fax: (632) 9269712

Additional Considerations
- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.
- Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
- PEMSEA, UNDP and UNOPS reserves the right to appoint a selected candidate at a level below the advertised level of the post.

For more information on PEMSEA and detailed post descriptions, please visit www.pemsea.org.
For more information on UNOPS, please visit the UNOPS website at www.unops.org.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
INDEPENDENT NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in General Accounting and/or Credit & Collection work
- Knowledge of basic computer operations
- Can work under pressure and with minimal supervision

SECRETARY
- College graduate preferably BS Secretarial Course / Office Management
- 1 yr experience in related job
- Knowledge of basic office and e-mail software
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

COMPUTER ENGINEER
- Graduate of Computer Engineering/ECE
- 6 months to 1 year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations system like Windows XP and Windows 2000/ MAC OS X, desktop applications like MS Office, Open Office, Email client, Adobe Products
- Troubleshooting skills, Interpersonal skills, Communication Skills
- Knowledge in network

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- 2 years experience as Graphic Designer
- 1 year experience in publishing
- Knowledge in Photoshop, Pagemaker, Corel Draw
- Skilled in manual and computer based illustration, Page Design

NETWORK / SYSTEMS ENGINEER
- College graduate preferably Computer Engineering or ECE
- 1 -2 years experience on this job or equivalent to
- Concepts in Computer Networking
- Email & Internet Administration
- Linux, Windows 2000 or 2003 Server Administration and Development
- Citrix Administration, TCP/IP Network
- Database knowledge is a plus

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
The Power of Knowing

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

World Bazaar Festival 2007

WORLDBEX SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (WSI) once again gears towards delighting everyone in the spirit of the Yuletide season as it embarks on another shopping feat at the biggest Christmas exhibition, the 7th World Bazaar Festival slated on Dec. 6-16 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila.

Grab your slot at the grandest Christmas Bazaar in the country that features exciting activities and showcases the best products in the local and International arena. Strut off your wares and display delicious entrees to experience in the full blast the most anticipated bazaar to hit more than 100,000 Filipino shoppers in the Metro.

Unravel your precious goods like the latest accessories, books, music products, handicrafts, fashion jewelry, paper products, car accessories, home furnishing, telecommunications and many more, completing a more worthwhile joyride towards the most exciting Christmas celebration ever.

Feel the Christmas sensation as you enjoy superb entertainment and purchase power while embracing a grand opportunity for a grand cause. Let the captivating and mesmerizing essence of gift giving enthrall you into the best of the Filipino trade and commerce.

Joseph Ang, WSI founding chair, sets the groove for prospective exhibitors and sponsors of the massive Christmas event of the year. "Marking our seventh year in the business of the quality trade shows in the country is a strong testament of our compelling commitment to various industries" he said. "As I welcome back our long-time partners and also welcome exhibition first-timers, I put forth my confidence to be bigger, better and more productive than last year's success."

Proceeds of the World Bazaar Festival will go to ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.

For more inquiries, please call WSI at tel.no. (02) 531-6350 / 74 or 534-3615 or fax (02) 533-2026 or email at info@worldbex.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CADET ENGINEERS

- Engineering Graduate (preferably Mechanical or Electrical).
- Male / Female
- 23-30 years old
- Knowledge in Computer application (Windows Environment and MS Office Application) Proficient in AUTO CAD is a plus.
- Proficient in both written and oral communication and good interpersonal skills
- Highly analytical
- Preferably with experience in Injection Moulding / Blow Moulding.
- Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply.

Interested applicants may send their resume with latest 2 x 2 picture and TOR to:

ALPHATECH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Panginay Road, Guiguinto Bulacan
Code: CE/HRD
Or
Email: alphatech@plastimeronline.com

Bayer CropScience

Our Technical Group is in need of:

Field Trials Supervisor

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education and Experience:

- *BS Agriculture Graduate or other science- related fields.*
- *Minimum 1-year experience in conducting scientific and market-oriented research works*
- *Minimum 1-year experience in conducting actual field work on crop protection and crop production.*
- *Minimum 2-years experience in the crop protection business*

Skills:

- *Good grasp of the English Language both oral and written*
- *Well-versed in Scientific Report Writing/Data Gathering and Interpretation Skills*
- *Good Interpersonal Skills*
- *Effective Administrative/Managerial Skills (Excellent Judgment and Problem-Solving Skills)*
- *Computer Literate, well- versed in Windows-driven programs*

Other Qualifications:

- *Male, 23-35 years old*
- *With Professional Driver's license*
- *Must Be a Calculated Risk Taker, Possesses Diplomacy and Tact*

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES are requested to email their resume with pictures at **cristina.malabanan@bayercropscience.com** or send it to Human Resource Department, 3F Bayer House, Canlubang Industrial Estate, and Calamba City not later than **December 14, 2007**

ASIA SOCIETY PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION, INC.

is in need of:

(1) MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

- Responsible for membership recruitment and liaison;
- Handles public relations and media liaison;
- In charge of website development and maintenance.

(1) PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

- Assists the Programs Director in programs management;
- Makes arrangements for logistical requirements of projects and special events;
- Prepares program reports and documentation summaries.

Requirements:

- College degree and a few years' working experience;
- Good communication and writing skills in English;
- Some knowledge of website development;
- Some experience in public relations and media liaison;
- Team player;
- Energetic

Apply in writing with resumé to:

The Executive Director
Asia Society Philippine Foundation, Inc.
2F AIM Conference Center
Benavidez cor. Trasierra Streets
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Email: **theoa@asiasoc.org.ph**
URL: **www.asiasociety.org**

Deadline: December 15, 2007

RURAL BANK OF MARAYO, INC.

The Most Outstanding Rural Bank In Western Visayas offers a great career opportunity for energetic and dynamic persons to join its management staff.

We are now in need of a:

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

- ✔ Male or Female not more than 40 years old
- ✔ BS Accountancy graduate with at least 2 years experience in accounting
- ✔ CPA or MBA degree is an advantage
- ✔ Well exposed to different computer applications
- ✔ Ability to handle heavy workloads & meet deadlines
- ✔ Excellent communication skills
- ✔ Strong interpersonal skills necessary to interact effectively at all levels of the organization
- ✔ Demonstrates professional integrity, maturity and judgment
- ✔ Willing to handle multitasking responsibilities
- ✔ Ability to work independently under less supervision
- ✔ Willing to work beyond working hours
- ✔ Willing to travel within the Negros or Panay area

THE MANAGER
Rural Bank of Marayo, Inc.
3rd Flr Carmen Bldg., Lizares Ave.,
Bacolod City, Neg. Occidental

Tel. No. (034) 4331860 or
(034) 7098080
Email to:
khaila2ice@yahoo.com

An ISO certified organization engaged in customs brokerage and international freight forwarding industry is in need of

IMPORT ASSISTANT

REQUIREMENTS

- College graduate
- With one (1) year experience in brokerage business
- Good in written and oral communication
- Computer literate (MS Word / Excel)
- Can stand pressure and long hours of work

CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE

REQUIREMENTS

- Male, preferably single between 22-30 years old
- College graduate
- Can drive a motorbike and car
- Can relate with different people and with good moral character

ACCOUNTING CLERK

REQUIREMENTS

- Female, between 20-25 years old
- BS Accountancy graduate
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Highly organized, hardworking and trustworthy
- Computer literate (MS Word / Excel)

MESSENGER

REQUIREMENTS

- Male, between 21-30 years old
- At least high school graduate
- Can drive a motorbike and car
- With one year experience in messengerial work

Please submit your application with resume and transcript of records to:

2nd Floor NYS Building 1156 Chino Roces Avenue
San Antonio Village Makati City
and look for Ms. Angela Paola Navarette
or
e-mail : hr@mbtphilippines.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

A Manila-based technical and management consultancy firm needs the following top-caliber professionals in the implementation of its domestic and overseas projects:

- **Project Managers**
- **Sr. Highway Engineers**
- **Sr. Pavement Engineers**
- **Sr. Structural/Bridge Engineers**
- **Sr. Drainage Engineers/Hydrologists**
- **Sr. Geodetic/Survey Engineers**
- **Sr. Geologists (Geohazards Specialists)**
- **Sr. Civil/Soils/Materials Engineers**
- **Sr. Cost/Quantity Engineers**
- **Sr. Contracts/Specifications Engineers**
- **Sr. Water Supply/Sanitary Engineers**
- **Sr. Flood Control/River Engineers**
- **Sr. Project Schedulers**
- **Sr. Transport Development Economists**
- **GIS Specialists**
- **IT/Information Management Specialists**
- **Jr. Civil Engineers for Highways/Drainage & Structural Design**
- **CAD Engineers for Civil-3D, Landev & Structural Design**
- **Project Database Operators (1-2 years experience)**
- **Office Computer Technician (1 year experience)**

Sr. Engineers and Specialists must have 12 – 15 years experience in their respective fields of expertise and computer literate in related engineering software. Schedulers must have knowledge in Primavera P3 & P5. Jr. Civil Engineers and CAD Engineers must have 3 – 5 years experience in civil works design/supervision.

Interested applicants may send their credentials/documents with: (i) Brief Application Letter with contact telephone/cell phone no.; email & postal addresses; (ii) Education Certificates: BS, MS/Master, PhD; (iii) Training and Seminar Certificates (as Training Leader, Resource Speaker, Participant); (iv) PRC Certificates and PRC ID Card (CE, GE, ECE); (v) Other Professional Accreditation e.g. Soil/Materials Engineers, and (vi) Certificates of Previous Employment to

BOX No. MN-005-07
Philippine Daily Inquirer
1098 Chino Roces Ave.
cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City (to Classified Dept.)

Oracle Programmer/Production Support Assistant

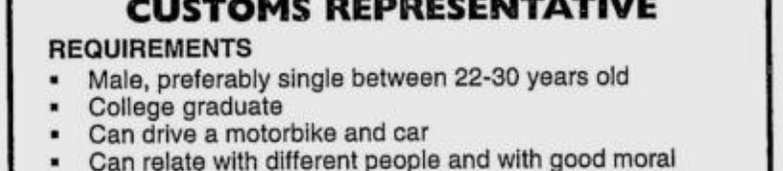
The USAID-funded MCA-PTP Technical Assistance Project has an urgent need for one (1) Production Support Assistant to assist in the Nationwide Rollout of Computerized Systems Project implemented by the BIR. The successful candidate will be needed for an initial period of at least six months and will be based in **Cebu**. The Production Support Assistant (PSA) should have the following qualifications:

a. extensive experience with Oracle and Oracle Report Writer;
b. strong computer operations background;
c. skilled in the use of SQL + and SQL Forms;
d. functional knowledge of the tax business area is desired, but not essential.

The PSA shall perform the following functions:

- assist the BIR's Project Team in implementing the Integrated Tax System (ITS) Rollouts;
- assist the BIR Data Center in maintaining the existing ITS applications and in responding to requests for assistance from the ITS users of newly-connected sites;
- do the necessary program fixes in response to help desk calls;
- submit periodic reports to BIR and the MCA-PTP TAP.

Interested applicants should submit their most recent CV to Mr. Jene Aliwalas, Component Manager RATE, Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines Threshold Program Technical Assistance Project at **mpastrana@msi-mca.com** or at Room 2302, 23Flr., Sedeno, corner Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Tel. Nos. 887-7412; 887-7467 to 69



DISCOVERY Reports Limited

Discovery Reports Limited produces special reports for Asia's leading English language newspapers. These reports provide an important source of information to global business leaders and professionals looking to penetrate the Greater China Market as well as South East Asian Markets. Discovery Reports is seeking:

Telemarketers:

- Schedule interviews & meetings with high level executives abroad.
- Conduct research and analysis on Fortune 500 companies and small to medium sized enterprises
- Negotiate with high level executives

Additional Requirements:

- Must have a bachelor's degree
- Previous call center or sales experience preferred
- Must speak English fluently and posses professional verbal and written communication skills
- Must be assertive, proactive and function independently
- Must know how to operate Microsoft programs
- Must be able to work from home

Please email Resume & Cover Letter to:
jobs@discoveryreports.com

INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, INC.

INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS is looking for dynamic Sales individuals for the following areas:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

(Makati Office)

- 1-2 years experience in direct sales or advertising (sales experience in newspaper publishing or any related publishing business is an advantage)
- Very good prospecting, presentation and communication skills
- Likes to think out-of-the-box solutions and new ideas
- Excellent customer relations skills
- Passionate about selling
- Has a working knowledge of word processing tools such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Must be a resident of Metro Manila

SALES CONSULTANTS

(Central Luzon, North Luzon, South Luzon and Davao)

- Must be a resident of **Central Luzon (Pampanga or Tarlac); North Luzon (Dagupan or Baguio); South Luzon (Laguna or Batangas) and Davao City.**
- Familiar with and has a good network of contacts in the local government units and private businesses in the region
- 1-2 years experience in Sales
- Keen interest in selling newspaper advertising ads and supplements
- Likes to think out-of-the-box solutions and new ideas
- Excellent customer relations skills
- Passionate about selling

Send your application (with photo) NOW to:

The Human Resources (c/o IPI)
PDI Building
Pasong Tamo corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.
Makati City 1200

or email to: jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph; spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph; tramirez@inquirerpublications.ph

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A reputable distribution company is in URGENT need of the following:

Network / Systems Administrator

- Male, 21-28 years old
- Graduate of BS in Computer Science, Electronics and Communications Engineer, or any Engineering course
- With at least 2 years experience in systems/network design, implementation and administration
- 1 year experience in Design and Systems Analysis, SQL, RDMS database administration
- results, service and details-oriented, analytical, excellent interpersonal skills, honest, can function well under pressure and can handle multiple tasks.

Sales Clerk / Utility Clerks

- personable, hardworking

Sales Representative

- with strong drive, aggressive, self-starters, team player
- Male/ Female 21 to 26 years old, college graduate,
- pleasing personality, good communication skills

Send or e-mail application letter and resumé with a recent passport size picture to:

P.O. BOX 2961 Manila or E-mail: recruit_r_us@yahoo.com

SNNM BAR & RESTAURANT
is in **URGENT** need of:

FLOOR MANAGER

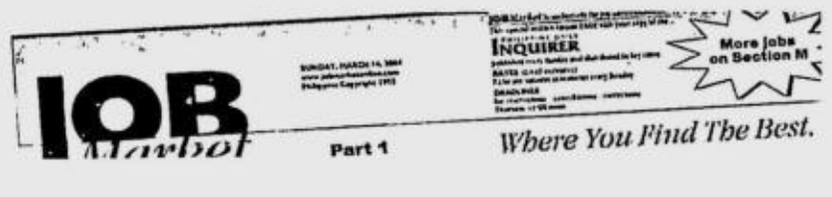
- With experience in the related field.
- Must possess pleasing personality and communicative in English.
- Has strong convincing power and good PR skills.
- With the ability to motivate individuals.

CASHIER

- With experience in the related field.
- Knowledgeable in using Microsoft Word & Excel.
- With background in accounting.
- Honest and hardworking to work in a bar in the Makati area.

Interested applicants may send in their resumés to progoadmin@eastern.com.ph or call 339-1464 from 3 pm-8 pm.

More employment opportunities in today's JOB MARKET. Every Sunday with the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



IMMEDIATE HIRING

MRC ALLIED INDUSTRIES, INC.,
a property development company, is hiring the following key personnel for its main office in Makati:

HUMAN RESOURCE/ADMIN. MANAGER
- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology
- Background in Law/Gen. Accountancy
- 5-10 yrs. experience, i.e., recruitment / training and development / compensation and benefits adm. / performance mngt system / company policies and procedures / code of conduct and discipline/administrative services
- Computer literate
- Articulate in English, oral and written communication
- Preferably 30-40 yrs. old

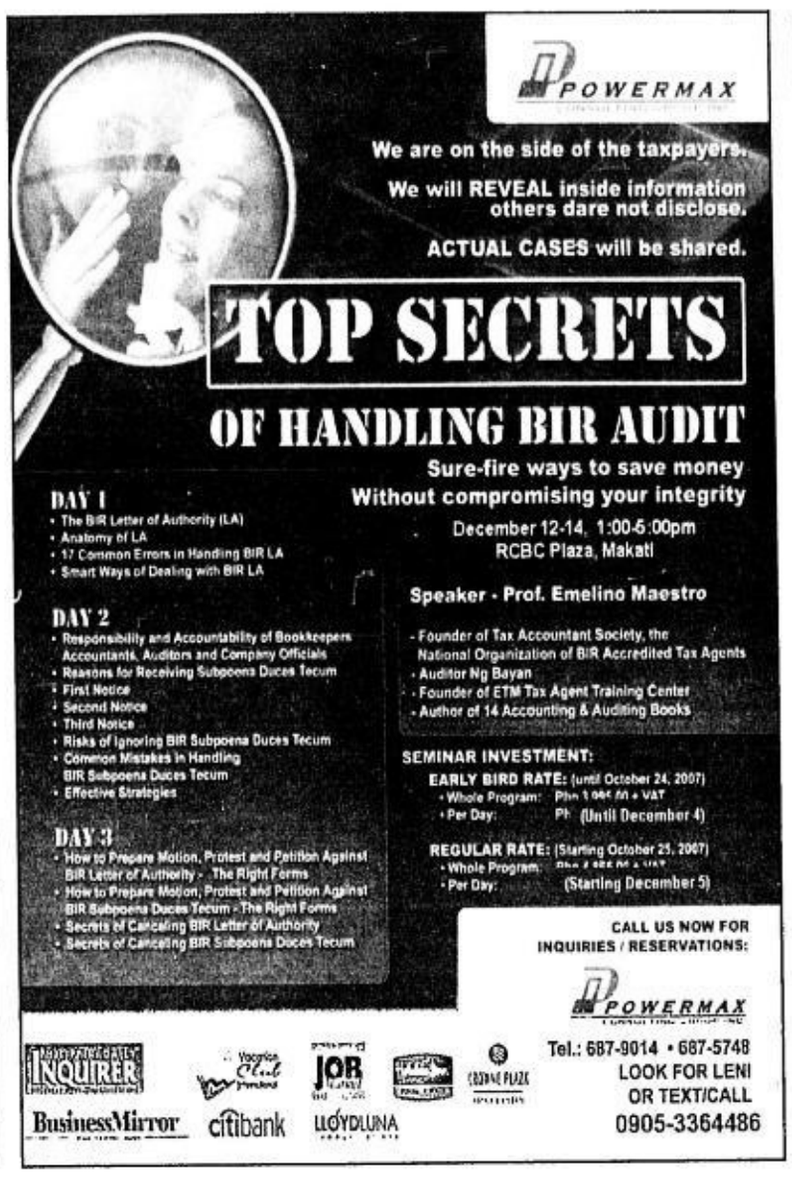
FINANCE MANAGER
- Bachelor's Degree with CPA license
- 5-10 yrs. experience in general accountancy
- Experience in taxation/statutory reports / treasury matters
- Computer literate
- Articulate in English, oral and written communication
- Preferably 30-40 yrs. old

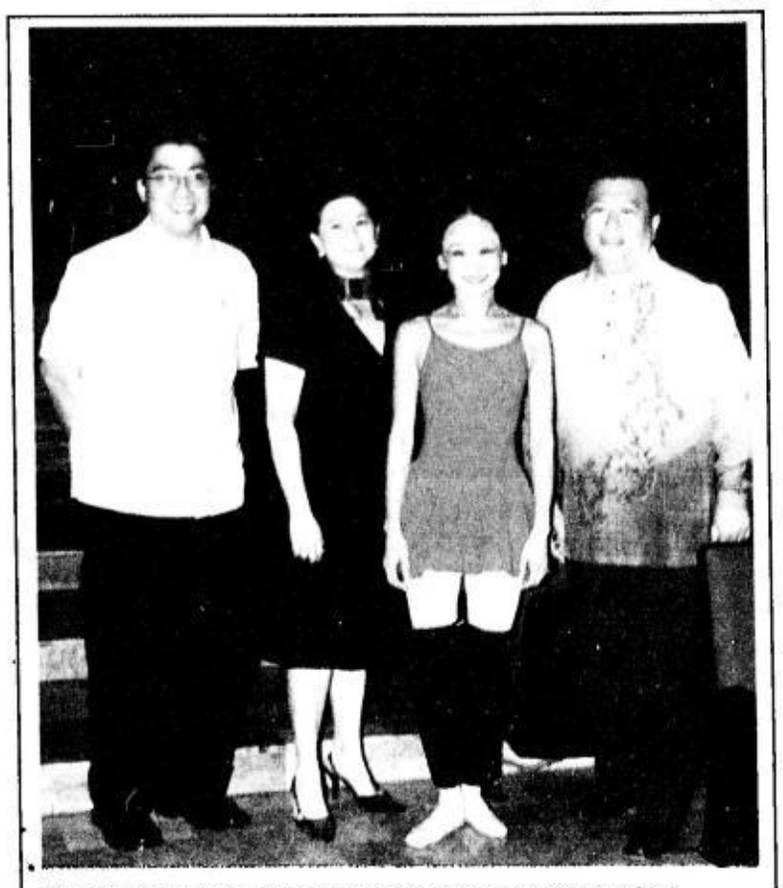
LEGAL COUNSEL / CORPORATE SECRETARY
- Bachelor's Degree in Law
- Bar passer
- 8-10 yrs. experience
- Background in general accountancy
- Articulate in English, oral and written communication

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- 2-4 yr. Secretarial course or equivalent
- 5 yrs. experience in executive assistance
- 25-35 yrs. old
- Computer literate
- Articulate in English, oral and written communication
- Knowledge of travel papers processing / documentation

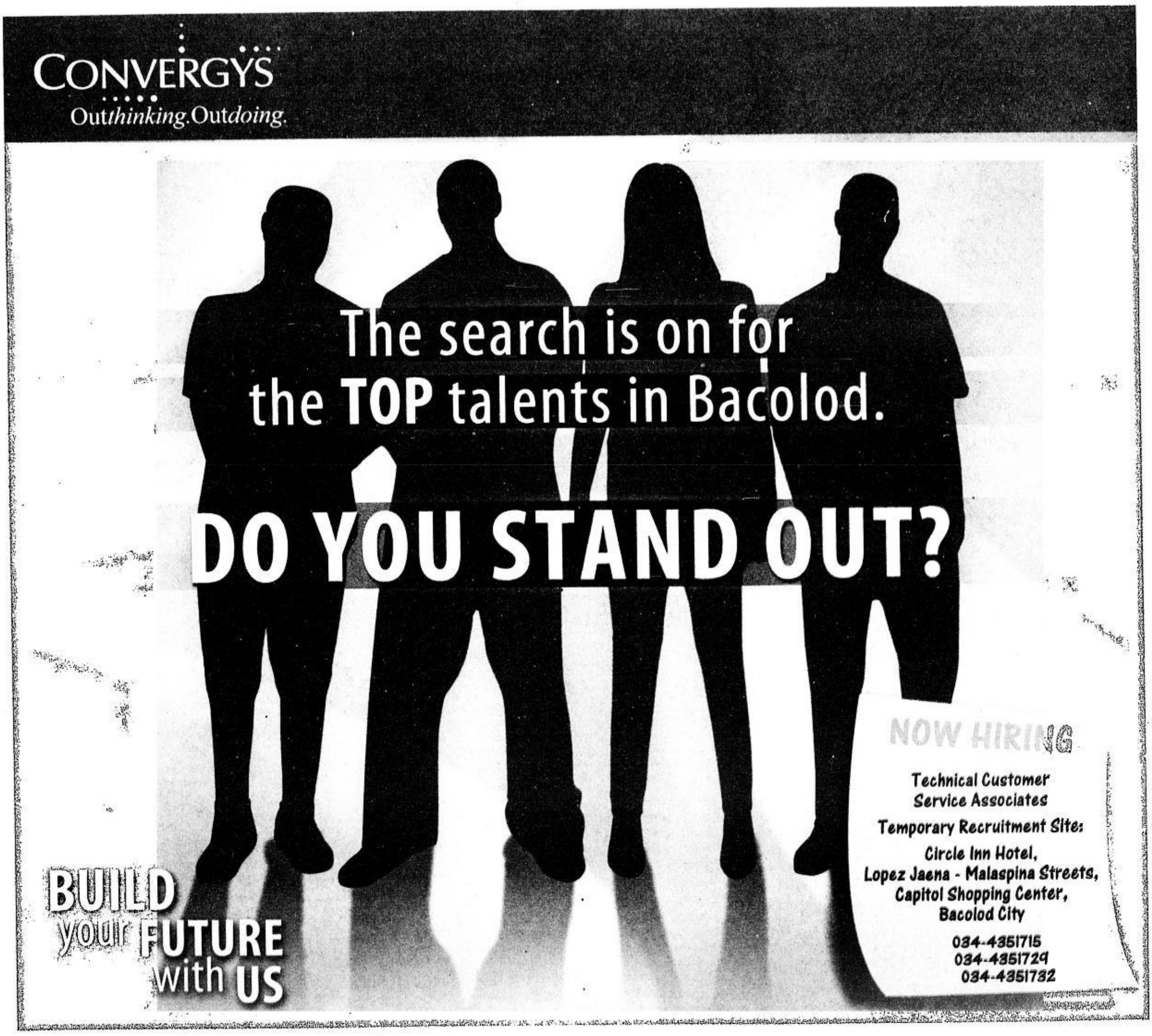
Good compensation / benefits package await qualified applicants.

Send resumé with recent photo to P.O.B. 2752, Makati City 1267





VALUED ADVERTISERS RECOGNITION.
Shown with Ms. Liza Macuja-Elizalde, prima ballerina and artistic director Ballet Manila (3rd from left) are Mr. Rene Reinoso, Inquirer Senior vice-president for sales and marketing, Ms. Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Inquirer President and Mr. Jesse Rebustillo, Inquirer AVP for Classifieds during the National Classifieds Valued Advertisers Recognition on Nov. 29, at the Star City Theater, Pasay City.



A reputable medical instrument company is in URGENT need of the following:

SALES MANAGER

Responsible for over-all development and implementation of sales and operational plans
- College graduate with MBA degree an advantage, preferably in late 20's or early 30's
- Must possess excellent skills in account management, negotiation, cost analysis and sales presentation
- Highly analytical and can communicate effectively at all levels of organization
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

PROGRAMMERS

Must be 21 to 30 years old, college graduate with working knowledge in FOXPRO, VISUAL BASIC and SQL. Those with 1-2 years work experience in systems development using these languages will be preferred.

Please send comprehensive resumé and recent photo to:

P.O. BOX 2961 Manila or E-mail to: recruit_r_us@yahoo.com

JOBMARKET TRAINING NAVIGATOR

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	For Inquiries
Sales Strategies and Negotiation Nuances	Dec. 10 9a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sofitel Philippines	ARIVA Events Marketing Partner Contact Ms. Sheila Villena at 890-3565 email: villenasheila@yahoo.com
Environmental Conflict Management Course	Dec. 11 - 12	ECI Training Center Unit E, 9th F, Strata 100 Bldg, Ortigas Center	ARIVA Tel. 895-8058 / 895-9527 / 890-9651 email: successseminars@Ariva.com.ph
360° Leader Workshop	Dec. 12-13 8:30 - 5:30 p.m.	EDSA Shangri-la Mandaluyong City	Inspire Leadership Consultancy, Inc. Tel. 8129125/09193824382 Bing or Pam email: pamtmiranda@gmailcom
Social Acceptability Training Course	Dec. 13 - 14	ECI Training Center Unit E, 9th F, Strata 100 Bldg, Ortigas Center	ARIVA Events Marketing Partner Tel. 895-8058 / 895-9527 / 890-9651 email: successseminars@Ariva.com.ph
Managing Emotions at the Workplace	Dec. 13 - 14	Mandarin Oriental Makati	American Management Association Tel. 7596680 and look for Jasmin email: jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph
Entrep Expo You've Got Company	Dec. 13 - 15 1-5 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas Center Amorsolo Ballroom	ARIVA Events Marketing Partner Tel. 895-8058 / 895-9527 / 890-9651 email: successseminars@Ariva.com.ph

JOB Market SA LIBRE

Get more exposure for your ad.

Advertise in JobMarket Libre

You can now checkout more jobs in JobMarket Libre from Monday to Friday.

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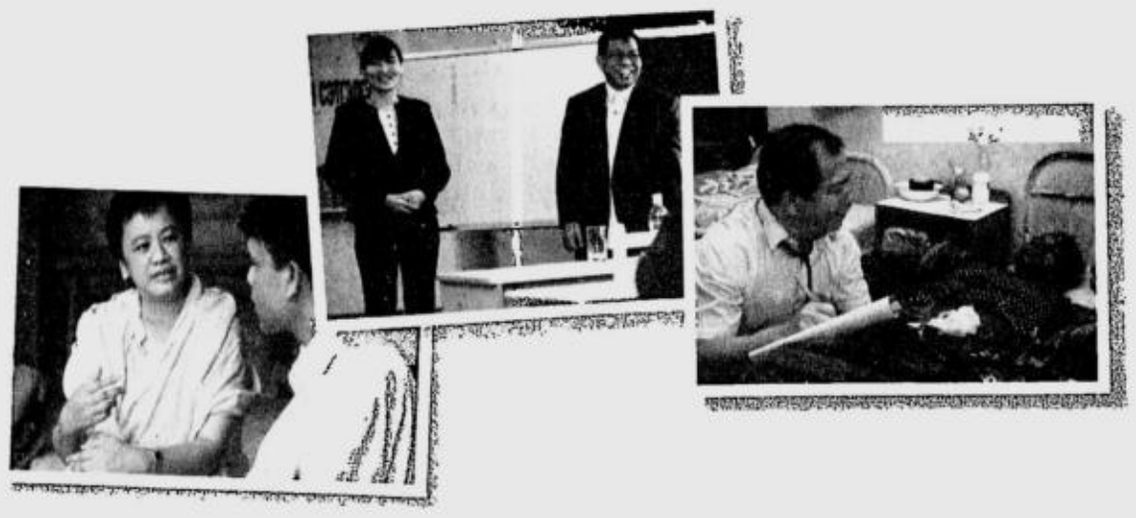

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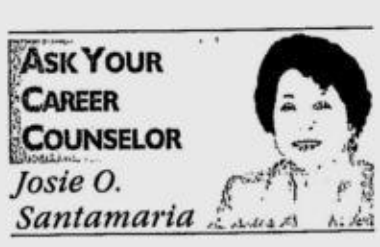
'Everybody wants me to work abroad but I don't want to'

EVERY ONE IN MY FAMILY, and this includes my husband, my parents, my in-laws and my siblings, want me to take up a job offer to be a nurse in a hospital in London for a contract of three years. The reason is economic: salary is very attractive. My husband is presently jobless and he can be both father and mother to our three children, aged 12, 9 and 2 years. Right now, my salary in a Makati hospital and as a private nurse to an 86-year-old bedridden woman, is not enough to make ends meet.

I'm deeply torn because I cannot bear to leave my three children and live so far away from them. Will my being absent for three years affect their development? I can talk to them by cell phone and even see them via webcam. Will this suffice? And what about my husband?

Mrs. Desperate Mother



About a year ago, I received a similar e-mail from a married woman with children and who was also torn between a job in the Middle East and a job here. The advice I gave to her will have some semblance with the advice I'm going to give to you now.

You are really desperately in need of someone to make up your mind for you, perhaps to tell you, "It's OK. Get that job. Your kids will be okay for three years. Your husband, too," perhaps from a psychologist. As you talk to OFWs who had gone and come back, you will get different advice. At the end of the day, however, so the saying goes, you will be the one to make the decision.

Despite the very attractive compensation, there are three things that make you uneasy about taking the plunge to work as a nurse in London: your children, your husband (though he is encouraging you to go), and your own mental and emotional health.

You can be sure that your absence from your children at this stage in their life will have a great psychological effect on their growth and development. They realize that they are not your priority, although you may rationalize, as do all OFWs, that it is because of love for them that you are making the big sacrifice of being away from them, to earn big money. They will feel abandoned, neglected and rejected by, and lonely for, a mother. How will they cope with these feelings? To whom will they run to if they need a mother?

You will cope, just like other OFWs, by giving them money and material things in order to assuage your guilt feeling. What will having a lot of money to buy the latest cell phones, iPods, clothes, etc. do to their character development? Having a lot of material things without working for them will affect their values and their motivation drive. The children who grow up without parents, particularly a mother, end up with poor grades and behavior problems in school, drug problems, sexual promiscuity, out-of-marriage pregnancy, etc.

You are also concerned about your husband. You ended your e-mail with a seemingly simple question that leaves much to the imagination. Will he remain faithful to you, is this what you want to ask? To whom will he turn if he needs a wife? There are many cases of broken families among OFWs. The spouse left behind invariably seeks another person to fill the needs that only a spouse can give. Also, your husband can only be a father to your children, but he can not be a mother to them, too.

And what about your peace of mind? Will you be happy and enjoy tranquility if you are worried about what's going on with your children and with your husband here, even if you can speak to them, and perhaps see them via a webcam?

Need I say more? My advice to you is pretty obvious.

With your nursing degree and actual experience as a nurse, perhaps you can wait awhile and look for an overseas job in Europe and in the USA that will enable you to bring your family—husband and children—with you. The only way to preserve and keep a family is by being together. I've known of many cases like these where the decision was to stay together and they did eventually get to travel, live and work together abroad.

May God bless you and may His Spirit guide you in making the right decision now so you can have peace of mind.

(The author is a professional psychologist. She is president of the Career Systems, Inc., a management consulting and human resources and organizational development company. Feedback at josantamaria@careersystems.com.ph.)

Gospel: Mt. 3: 1-12

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals.

Excellence and humility

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE HUMBLE ATTITUDE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST WHO ACknowledged Jesus as "mightier than I" is not very common among us, mortals. Our most preferred mode in our relationship with others is the "I am the greatest" attitude. The prevailing competitive spirit in today's world strongly affirms this mindset and behavior also in the world of work and business. Almost no one would admit that he is weaker than his competitor or that his products or services are lesser in quality than those of the others. Very few managers would not openly admit that their subordinates are better than them, nor are there many rank-and-file workers who would give affirmation and appreciation to colleagues who show better work performance than them.

Yet, it is clear that in the "career" (mission) of John the Baptist, humility—acceptance of his proper role given by God, and acknowledging the primacy of Christ over his being and his mission—did not hinder him from performing his work in a most excellent way. People around him and Christ, Himself commended him for a job well-done. To aim at excellence in work therefore, would not mean to look down on others and their capabilities and value only or solely one's own competence; but, working to the top would require a sincere and humble acceptance of the truth that what we are and what we can do are gifts from the Source of our being and life.

Everyone, in whatever career or rank in his job, whether one considered as the lowest or the highest, would always be the best in his category when he would sincerely acknowledge that it is the Lord who is mightier than him, and would give all his best for the Lord and in the accomplishment of his given task. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

An otherwise cold world

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THIS BUSINESS OF BEING "WORTHY TO CARRY HIS SANdals" reminds me of an incident that happened some 12 years ago. I was helping the driver and the delivery man unload packs of Blue Collar magazine at the Don Bosco Mandaluyong campus, carrying them from the van to the storeroom, when a young priest, Fr. Jack, passed by. Seeing that there were thousands of copies to unload, he promptly joined us. Though surprised, I welcomed the idea of a priest doing the job of a delivery man, so we happily continued, oblivious to the usual campus activity around us.

Then some students in their late teens, noticing the priest's extraordinary task, put down their rucksacks to help us as well, so that the work was done speedily. Much later on, I overheard Fr. Jack telling the students *"Kung yung mismong* editor, *babae pa, mas matanda pa sa akin, nagbubuhat ng magasin natin, bakit hindi ako?"* (If the editor herself, a woman at that, and older than me, would cart our magazine, why not me?)

Himself revered by the people as a prophet, preacher and baptizer, John showed humility in admitting his unworthiness and recognizing his role before the Lord. In stepping out of his role as priest to momentarily become a manual worker, Fr. Jack manifested compassion, the visible fruit of an interior humility. Did it make him less of a priest? No; in fact, it expressed the essence of priesthood—servant leadership. The younger men took his lead, the load was shared, and the task was finished efficiently. Do we find in our workplaces presidents who would in an emergency change a blown out fuse, or offer you a lift home during a flash flood? There is room for humility in the workplace—it affirms the warmth of God's presence in an otherwise cold world. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

Professional women lecture on image marketing to students

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—MARKETING is the key. College students who want to start their own business or who are seeking employment were taught how to market themselves in a seminar given by a group of women professionals here on Saturday.

About 3,000 students from different Baguio universities attended the seminar, "Power Image," which was conducted by the Venture Club of Baguio (VCB) to expose them to various ways of "packaging" themselves.

The Venture Club is an organization of professional women in government, banking, education, medicine, business, academe and social work.

"What the students just learned would be very practical for them. They can use this in their every day [dealings] with other people," said Eleanor Bautista-Razon, VCB president.

Razon said the seminar is useful for those who are focused on climbing the corporate ladder, business networking and for those who want to establish their own business.

The seminar wanted to give students an advantage in any hiring and recruitment procedure and the edge in their workplaces, said Dr. Emily Joy Acosta-Gacad, past president of VCB.

Gacad, also a corporate image consultant, said the students may have lots of skills, talent and potential but the competitive world of business would also require image improvement in terms of packaging, communication skills and etiquette.

The seminar discussed communication skills, meeting people, opening and sustaining conversations, and phonetics.

The seminar also gave practical tips on manners, answering telephone calls, dining and even detecting signs of bribery from clients.

PROPER corporate attire gives students an advantage in the hiring and recruitment process.

"The attire would depend on the culture of the company, because they all differ," Gacad said.

She said that one should know the different attires such as formal corporate attire, business-casual attire, smart casual and semi-formal.

Business corporate attire is distinguished by solid colors such as black, gray, dark blue and brown. Males should wear tailored suits such as long-sleeved shirt with tie, leather shoes. For females, they should wear above-the-knee skirts and also suits of the same solid colors. If the skirt is a little below the knee, the skirt should have a slit at the back which is also above the knee.

For business casual, the clothes are more at ease but do not sacrifice formality. For males, long sleeves without a tie, leather shoes and formal pants. For females, skirts (which do not have to be tailored), blouse, sweaters, coats, pant suit and blazers.

Semi-formal is more of a dressy type. Females could wear skirts that are pleated and not formal, more of Sunday dress type. They wear lighter colors such as pink.

Males could wear a combination of business casual and corporate look.

For smart casual, jeans is a no-no. Males could wear short-sleeved polo and slacks while the women could also be dressy, they could wear capri pants and skirts.

Gacad also discussed office decorum, social decorum and business ethics when dealing with other nationalities.

Razon said the seminar wanted to help young professionals and entrepreneurs to become globally competitive by improving their images.

"The students may be smart but the company may have difficulty in hiring them because they lack the skills to talk and to articulate themselves. They must learn how to market themselves," she said.

She said since multinational companies were investing in the Philippines, competition should be expected among those who wanted to be hired.

This was why students should learn "image marketing" and "corporate image" at an early stage, she said.

Women still victims of gender inequality in Britain

LONDON—WOMEN ARE still the victims of persistent gender inequality in the workplace, with very little change in their working conditions in Britain for almost two decades, according to a landmark report on Thursday.

Women are working longer hours because they are still shouldering the bulk of household duties like cleaning and childcare, the Cambridge University report found.

This was leading to a vicious circle in which women worked more part-time hours, preventing them from furthering their career.

The report, "Gender and working conditions in the European Union," said there was still segregation in the workplace while women were far less likely to earn high salaries than their male counterparts.

It found that despite British female workers making up just under half of the workforce, fewer than one in six had senior management roles.

The report, based on surveys of 30,000 workers in the 27 EU countries, revealed few women were represented in the armed forces, skilled manual work and senior management.

More were in "caring" professions and clerical support.

"Our research revealed persistent gender inequalities in many, but not all, types of work and working conditions," said Brendan Burchell, who led the study.

"There is still a very big difference in the way domestic work is shared—it is changing but it is changing slowly," he told Reuters. "Men are starting to take an equal shoulder of the housework but ... this still needs to change." He said he was struck at how inequality, particularly in working conditions, in Britain had not changed since 1991.

"In many ways we are an average country," he added. "We have lots of part-time workers, second only to the Netherlands, which in some ways is good as it takes the pressure off families, but on the other hand it makes it more difficult for women to get back and become established in the labor market."

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School of Midwifery DEPT. HEAD / FACULTY (Full/Part Time)	Updated license for midwifery & active member of professional organization of Midwifery (for Cainta and Sumulong)
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School of Seafarer DEAN / FACULTY (Full/Part Time)	(For Cainta)
FACULTY MEMBERS (Full/Part Time) Accounting, Business Admin, Criminology, Computer Science/IT, English, Filipino, ECE, HRM, Math, Nursing & Psychology	(For Cainta, Angono, Antipolo, Binangonan, Cogeo, Morong, Pasig, San Mateo, Sumulong & Tanay)
Career Placement Officer, Network Admin, Webpage Admin, Webpage Designer, School Nurse, Bookkeeper, Cashier, Admin/HR Officer, Marketing Officer, Registrar/Office Staff, Guidance, Accountant	(For Cainta, Angono, Antipolo, Binangonan, Cogeo, Morong, Pasig, San Mateo, Sumulong & Tanay)

REQUIREMENTS: Application letter, resumé with 2x2 colored picture, Medical and NBI Clearance, Diploma, Copy of Transcript of Records, PRC license (if applicable) and references.

ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DROP BOX: P.O. Box # 559 Greenhills, San Juan — Email add: hr@icct.edu.ph

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- With excellent communication skills (oral & written)
- Knowledgeable in the use of the Internet and MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Possesses a valid professional driver's license

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are requested to mail or email their updated resume, 2 pcs. 2x2 photos and photocopy of transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Management Division

Chevrolet Pampanga
San Fernando - Olongapo Highway,
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Contact Nos.
045.961.6680 / 09287742945

email: hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph

not later than Dec. 22, 2007

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UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

INFORMATION COORDINATION OFFICER

Under the overall guidance of the UNFPA Representative and the immediate supervision of the Programme Officer for Advocacy & IEC, the Information Coordination Officer will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Formulate yearly communication plan for UNFPA based on specific themes, activities, and observances and ensure its implementation.
2. Coordinate the distribution of print and audio-visual materials to various audiences, particularly the media.
3. Organize and cover press conferences as necessary, arrange interviews on local radio and TV programs for the UNFPA Representative, and issue press releases and backgrounders for distribution to media.
4. Prepare speeches and presentation materials for the UNFPA Representative and cover major events attended by the UNFPA Representative.
5. Prepare abstracts of relevant information materials coming from UN Headquarters.
6. Oversee regular update of the UNFPA website and provide current data and information to partners and the public.
7. Monitor daily local newspapers and send relevant press clippings and summaries to UN Headquarters.
8. Maintain liaison with the government, civil society, business; and educational institutions to encourage opportunities for learning about UNFPA.
9. Prepare relevant information materials to promote UNFPA and its activities.
10. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the UNFPA Representative.

Job Requirements:

Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Mass Communications or any related field
At least 10 years experience in media-related work
Excellent written and oral English

Competencies:

Core Competencies
- Values/Guiding Principles
- Performance Management
- Fostering Innovation and Empowerment
- Working in Teams
- Self-Management/Emotional Intelligence
- Communication
- Analytical and Strategic Thinking and Results Orientation / Commitment to Excellence
- Knowledge Sharing/Continuous Learning

Functional Competencies
- Advocacy/Advancing a Policy Oriented Agenda
- Results-Based Programme Development and Management
- Leveraging the Resources of National Governments & Partners / Building Strategic Alliances and Partnerships
- Innovation and Marketing of New Approaches

Computer skills in word processing, PowerPoint, and web-based media tools
Excellent organizational and communication skills, both oral and written
Ability to work under minimum supervision
Demonstrated presentation skills
Ability to address any queries concerning UNFPA and to determine relevant background and reference materials, which may be required
Tact and ability to exercise discretion, diplomacy, sound judgment, and initiative in the performance of his/her duties
Ability to work as a pro-active member of a team

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in www.unfpa.org/about/employment/p-11.doc to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1,
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue,
1229 Makati City, Philippines

or through email: jtraquina@unfpa.org. All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Ms. Ma. Antonina Ducusin of UNFPA Manila by email: ducusin@unfpa.org

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

Salary : Negotiable based on experience and qualifications
Deadline for submission of applications : December 21, 2007
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A reputable company based in the United Arab Emirates is looking for dynamic professionals to fill the below vacancies:

Field Service ELECTRICIAN / MECHANIC
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- Diploma in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent
- Minimum 3-5 years experience in the field service of the Diesel generator Sets in one of the reputable Dealers (e.g. Caterpillar dealer, Cummins dealer, Perkins dealer, MTU dealer, SDMO Agent) is a must.
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- Have valid driving license.

The qualified candidates only can send their C.V. with recent photograph to e-mail: allam111.eim.ae

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- 2 – 3 years work experience as an administrative assistant
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- Results-oriented, with analytical & administration skills; accounting skills
- Excellent comprehension & listening skills
- Organized and systematic
- Must possess personal and professional integrity
- Willing to work beyond office hours

Salary negotiable
Email resumé and cover letter to:
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ALLIANCE TUNA INTERNATIONAL, INC.

A Publicly Listed Company

Alliance Tuna International, Inc., a fast growing canned tuna exporter and the only listed tuna processing company in the Philippines, has an immediate opening in its team of professionals for the following positions:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR - based in Ortigas, Pasig City
Responsible for the preparation & analysis of monthly financial statements, compliance w/ the reportorial requirements of BIR, SEC, PSE & BOI and maintenance of computerized books of accounts. Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, preferably a CPA and with at least 2 years experience in General Accounting.

SHIPPING & DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANT - based in Ortigas, Pasig City
Responsible for encoding and organizing documentation & shipping data, communicates and coordinates with shipping lines, government agencies and plant shipping & documentation. Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree of a 4-year Business Course and with experience on documentation processing and safekeeping.

**Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume to the HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT c/o Vanessa R. Capinpin
Suites 1206 & 1405, East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel No. 635 5241 to 44 / Fax No. 635 5235
www.alliancetuna.com.ph / vrcapinpin@alliancetuna.com.ph**

Junior INQUIRER

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

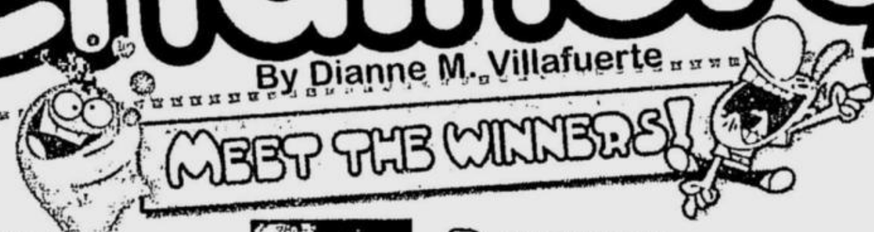
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 89

WHAT'S INSIDE:

D-oh! Find out what Homer's raving about on page 4

Here's to excellent entertainers!

By Dianne M. Villafuerte



THE POWERpuff Girls, Billy and Bloo can't get enough of young Pinoy talent!

For the sixth time around, Cartoon Network salutes young budding artists with the Cartoon Network Awards of Excellence.

The search this year had three new categories: Singing, Dancing and the Wild Card. Held at the SM Mall of Asia's Center Stage and hosted by Jolina Magdangal, winners were announced in an exciting awarding ceremony with singer-actress Karylle, celebrity dance champ Rodjun Cruz and comedian/magician Bearwin Meily as guests.

SINGING

Deanne May G. Igaya, 14

Deanne has been singing since she was 2 years old. At the age of 9, she started competing in her school's singing contests. A student of Torres High School in Tondo, she is often asked to perform in school programs.

Deanne discloses that there was a point during the search when she felt like backing out. "One week *na lang* before the finals *nagkasakit ako*," she shares. "*Paos na paos po ako, hindi ko makanta yung* song." Despite this, Deanne came out on top at the CNAE finals. She sang Carrie Underwood's "Angels Brought Me Here".

Campus Crew

Deanne May

Kristen Faith

Her advice to other kids who are thinking of joining next year? "Discipline, direction and devotion."

DANCING

Campus Crew

Campus Crew is composed of Christian Reyes, Samie Dizon, Jaypee Rosario, Juan Miguel Tayag, John Anthony Tenorio and JR Rosario. Mr. Rafael Fortuna, dance troupe trainer at Gen. Pio del Pilar National High School, formed the hiphop dance group in 2006.

Having competed in other dance contests before, the group decided to audition for the Cartoon Network search. But days before the finals, JR got into an accident and broke his foot, prompting his parents to send him home to Bacolod. The group also found it difficult to schedule practices due to schoolwork.

Christian credits their success to everyone's focus and discipline.

THE WILD CARD

Kristen Faith S. Lagrimas, 11

This year, Cartoon Network introduced the Wild Card category. The "Wild Card" is for the individual or group with an "entertainer's bone". This means that they have skills—outside of singing and dancing—that can entertain people.

Kristen Faith wowed everyone with her declaiming skills, thus earning her the award. A grade six student at Makati Elementary School, Kristen is fond of acting and always joins storytelling contests. This is probably why she didn't feel nervous all throughout the talent search.

Here's to this year's winners of the Cartoon Network Awards of Excellence! Keep up the great work, guys!

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

Think Out Loud!

WHAT CAN YOU PLEDGE TO HELP THE EARTH?

I promise to segregate our garbage and try to use biodegradable materials as fertilizer.—**Bernard Patrick L. Pingol**, 10, Imus, Cavite

I promise to save electricity by unplugging appliances that are not in use.—**Cordell Jericho M. Gingoyon**, 11, Bacoor, Cavite

I promise not to waste paper because using more paper means cutting more trees. —**Joselito De La Cruz II**, 10, Bacoor, Cavite

I pledge to plant more trees and plants in our backyard.—**Sophia Pilar C. Raymond**, 11, Bacoor, Cavite

I promise not to throw my candy wrappers just anywhere because they can clog the drainage system and cause floods. —**Chloe Sofia A. Gawaan**, 11, Bacoor, Cavite

I promise to protect the earth by encouraging carpools so we can save gasoline.—**Emma Angelina Laxa Pangilinan**, 11, Quezon City

Guyito's Corral

Welcome to my corral!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to [illegible] Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

Junior Inquirer

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2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

HEY JI!

WHEN I READ YOUR LAST ISSUE, I WAS SO RELIEVED THAT A LOT A KIDS MY AGE CARE SO MUCH ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND THE WILDLIFE.

I TOO AM AN ANIMAL LOVER. WHENEVER I SEE STRAY ANIMALS, I CALL THE ATTENTION OF MY BROTHER AND WE BOTH PRAY FOR THAT PARTICULAR ANIMAL. I PRAY FOR THOSE ANIMALS EVERY NIGHT.

ELINORE MARIE P. UY
12 YEARS OLD
QUEZON CITY

Thanks for caring about animals and praying for them, Marie. There are also other ways you can help stray animals. Check out www.mefindhome.blogspot.com for ideas.

—JI Staff

YOU WIN!

Elinore gets an Itsy Bitsy Bratz Safety Pin Racer. Itsy Bitsy Bratz is the smallest version of Bratz Babyz and is distributed by Ban Kee Trading.

Out There

RATATOUILLE NOW ON DVD. You loved the movie, and now here's the DVD! It has a sumptuous selection of bonus features, including deleted scenes and "Fine Food and Film," a behind-the-scenes look at how master chef and restaurateur Thomas Keller used his expertise to help shape the film. Ratatouille on DVD is available at all Astroplus and Astrovision stores. Get your copy now!

* * *

SOMETHING FOR CHRISTMAS! Get into the gear with Spy Gear Spy Agent Action Briefcase! A complete mobile spy system it can shoot darts, has motion alarm, flashlights and a spy scope which can all work from inside the briefcase or out! There's even a secret compartment, CD/DVD holder, and room for your extra Spy Gear, too. Little girls meanwhile will surely love the Bratz Storybook Collection, a new collection from your cute and fun lovin' characters Bratz Babyz, the baby girls with a passion for fashion! Spy Gear Spy Agent Action Briefcase and Bratz dolls are exclusively brought to us by Ban Kee Trading Inc. and are available in all leading department stores and toy stores nationwide.

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Wassup World?

Baguio City, PHILIPPINES

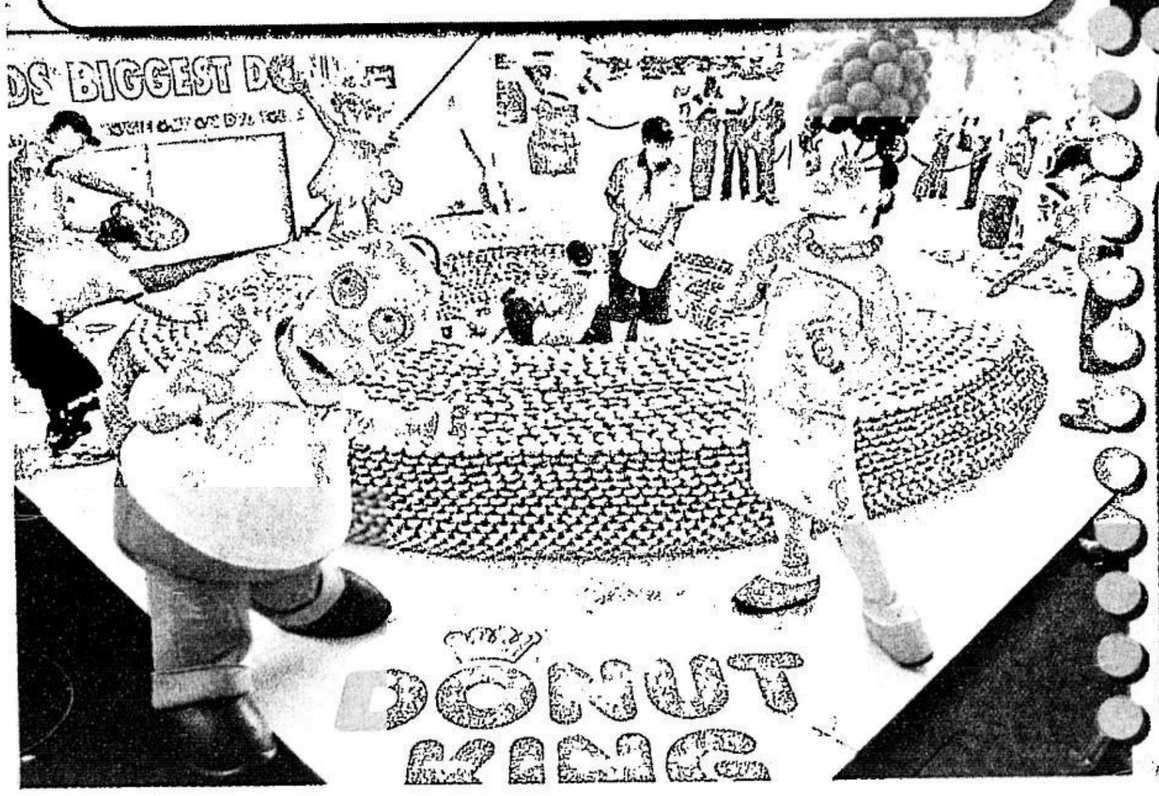
Wow Cordillera!

BAGUIO universities brought out their best Cordillera festival dancers for the tourism department's Wow Philippines campaign. Baguio gets most of its tourists during the Christmas season. **Vincent Cabreza**

Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Nuts for doughnuts

SORRY Homer, those are not for you. At the launch of "The Simpsons Movie" DVD in Sydney, 40 people constructed a 3.5 ton-doughnut using over 80,000 pink icing-topped doughnuts. They were later distributed to homeless people. **AFP**



Tokyo, JAPAN

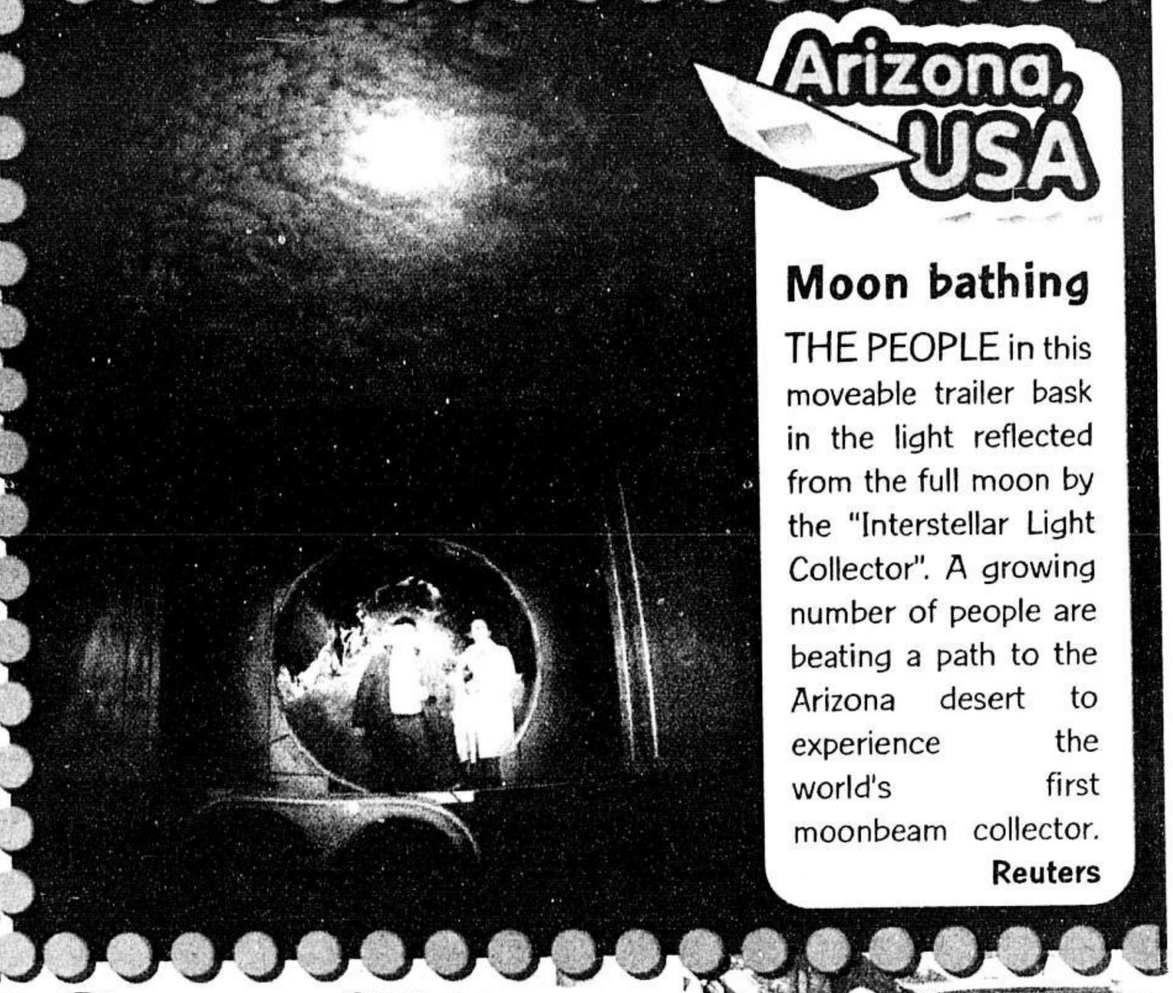
Techno beat

"MOTOMAN", from Japan's largest industrial robot maker Yasukawa Electric, beats a drum during a demonstration at the International Robot Exhibition, one of the world's largest robot shows . Some 200 companies and more than 50 organisations from Japan and abroad are taking part in the exhibition. **AFP**

Arizona, USA

Moon bathing

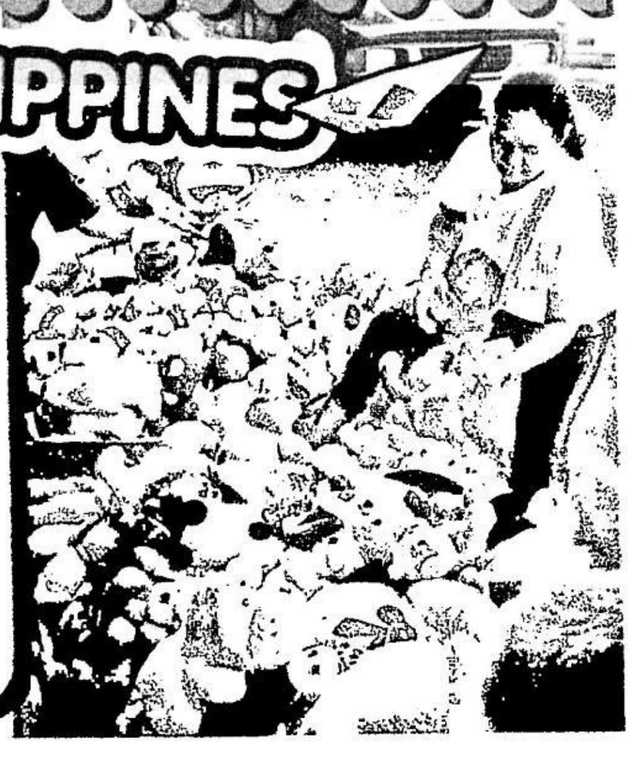
THE PEOPLE in this moveable trailer bask in the light reflected from the full moon by the "Interstellar Light Collector". A growing number of people are beating a path to the Arizona desert to experience the world's first moonbeam collector. **Reuters**



Davao, PHILIPPINES

Sidewalk shopping

PEOPLE troop to the "ukay-ukay" for used clothes, but at this sidewalk in Uyanguren Street, there are secondhand stuffed toys as well. Cash-strapped givers may find these to be the perfect Christmas gifts. **Dennis Jay Santos /Inquirer Mindanao**

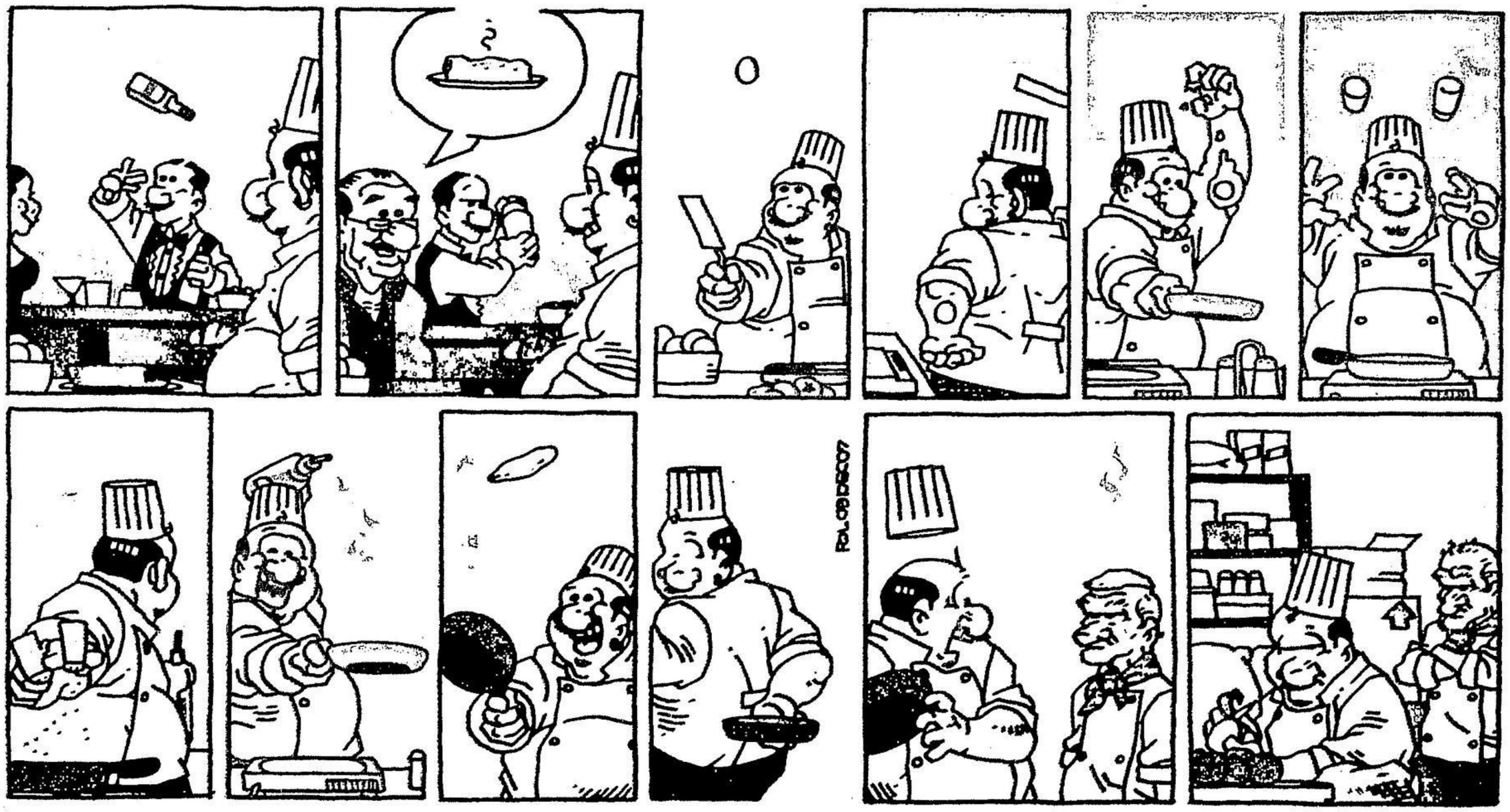


RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

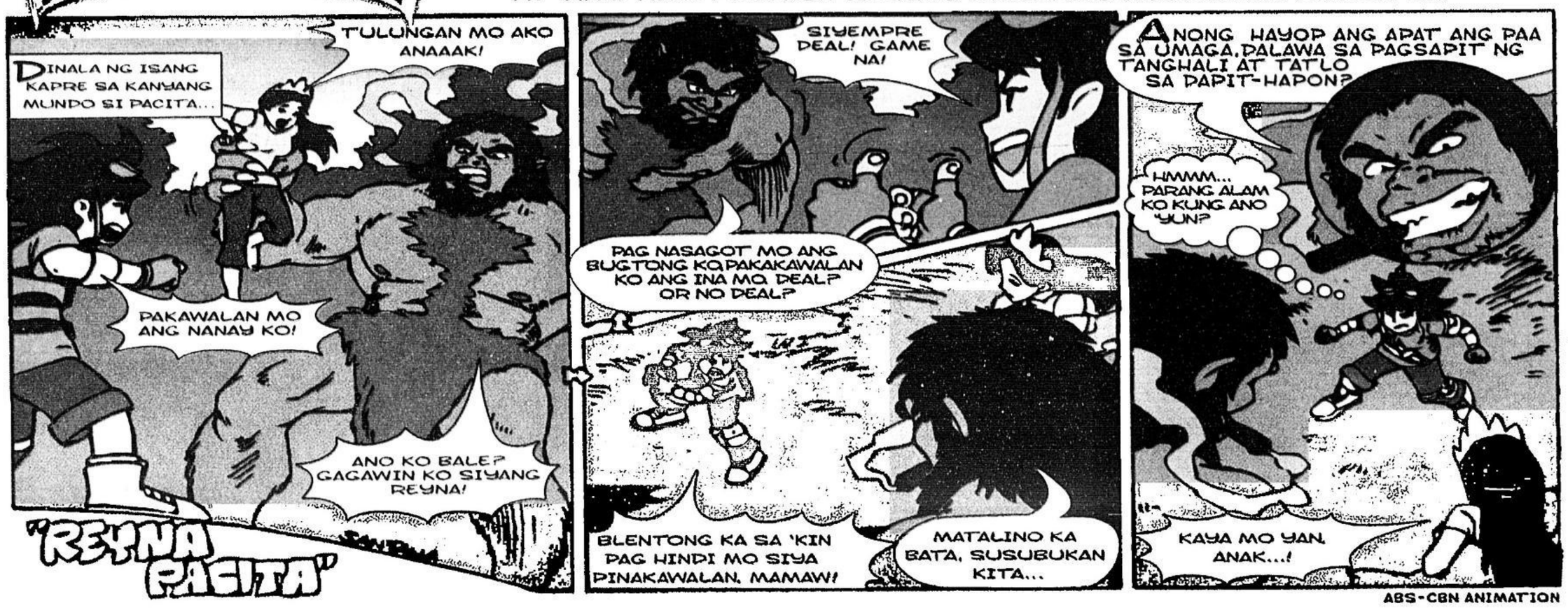
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.



SUPER INGGO

LAST WEEK: MANGGA ANG SAGOT SA PALAISIPAN NI JACK DAHIL HINDI NAMAN PUNO ANG SAGING AT KAWAYAN... NGAYONG LINGGO SINO KAYA ANG MAKAKALABAN NG ATING BIDA AT ANO ANG PALAISIPAN ANG KANYANG KELANGAN SAGUTIN?



ABS-CBN ANIMATION

ABS-CBN

WRITTEN BY JEFFREY MARCELINO ONG

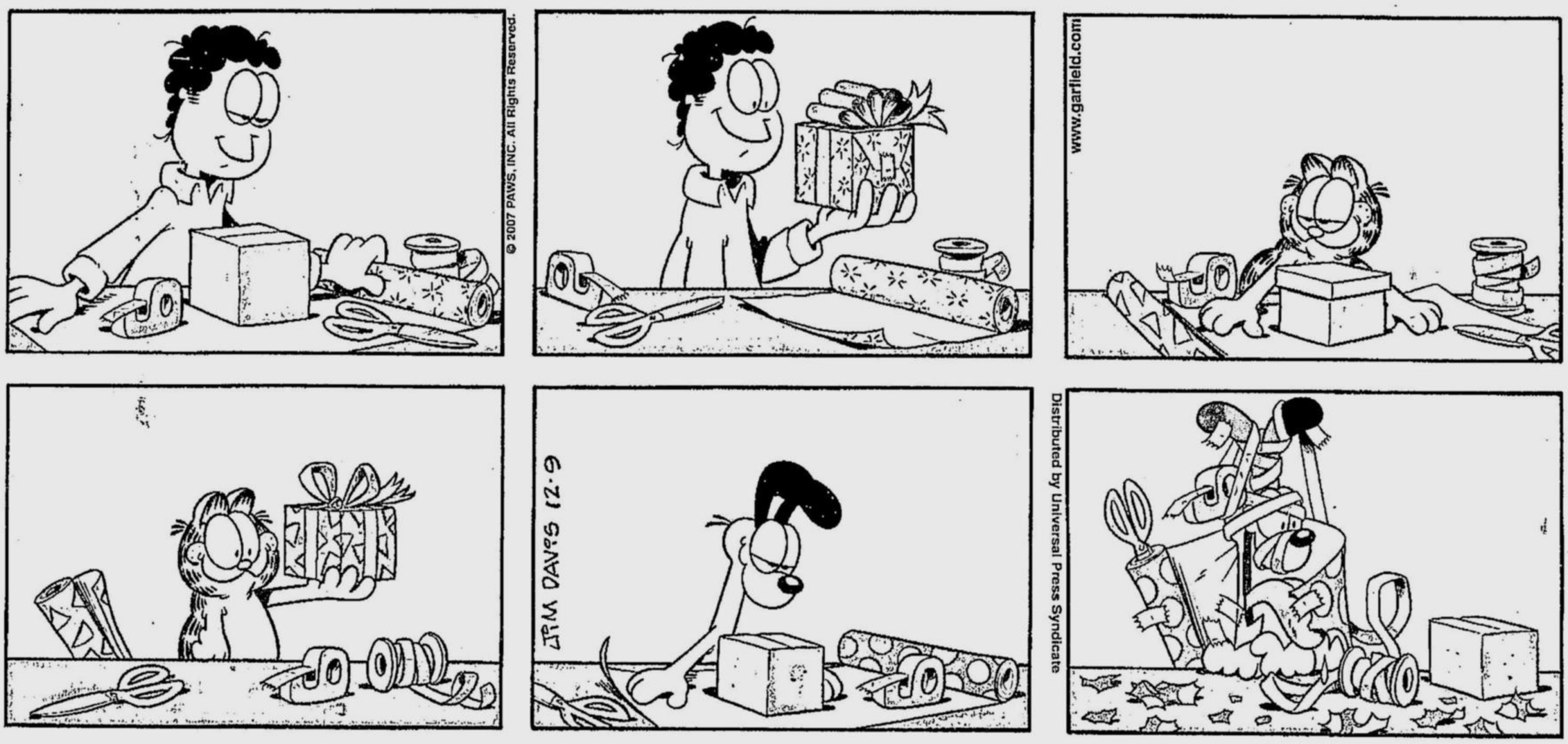
KAYO MGA KIDS? ALAM N'YO ANG SAGOT? ABANGAN SA SUPER INGGO 1.5, ANG BAGONG BANGIS! SA SABADO, 5:45 PM, SA ABS-CBN!

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

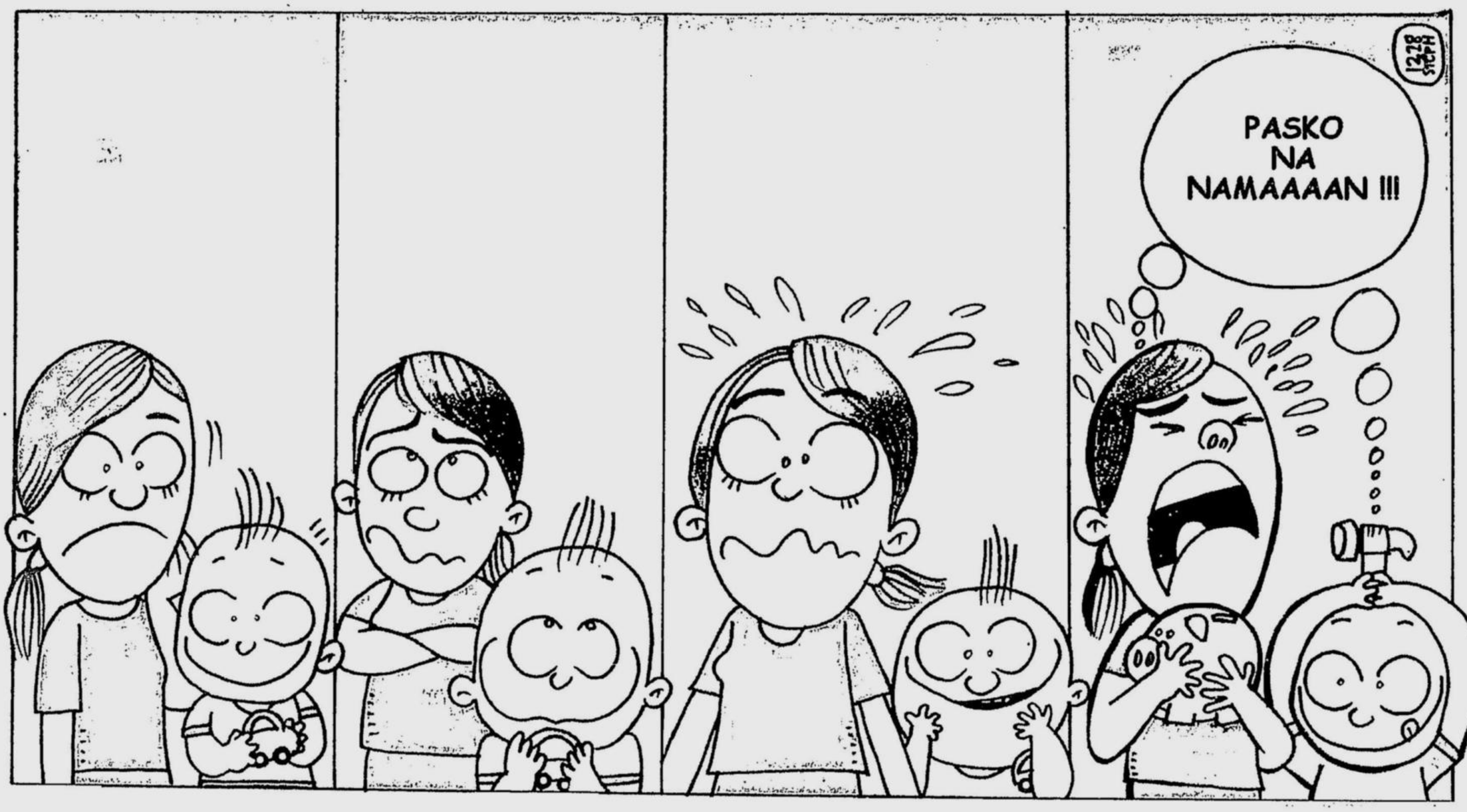
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

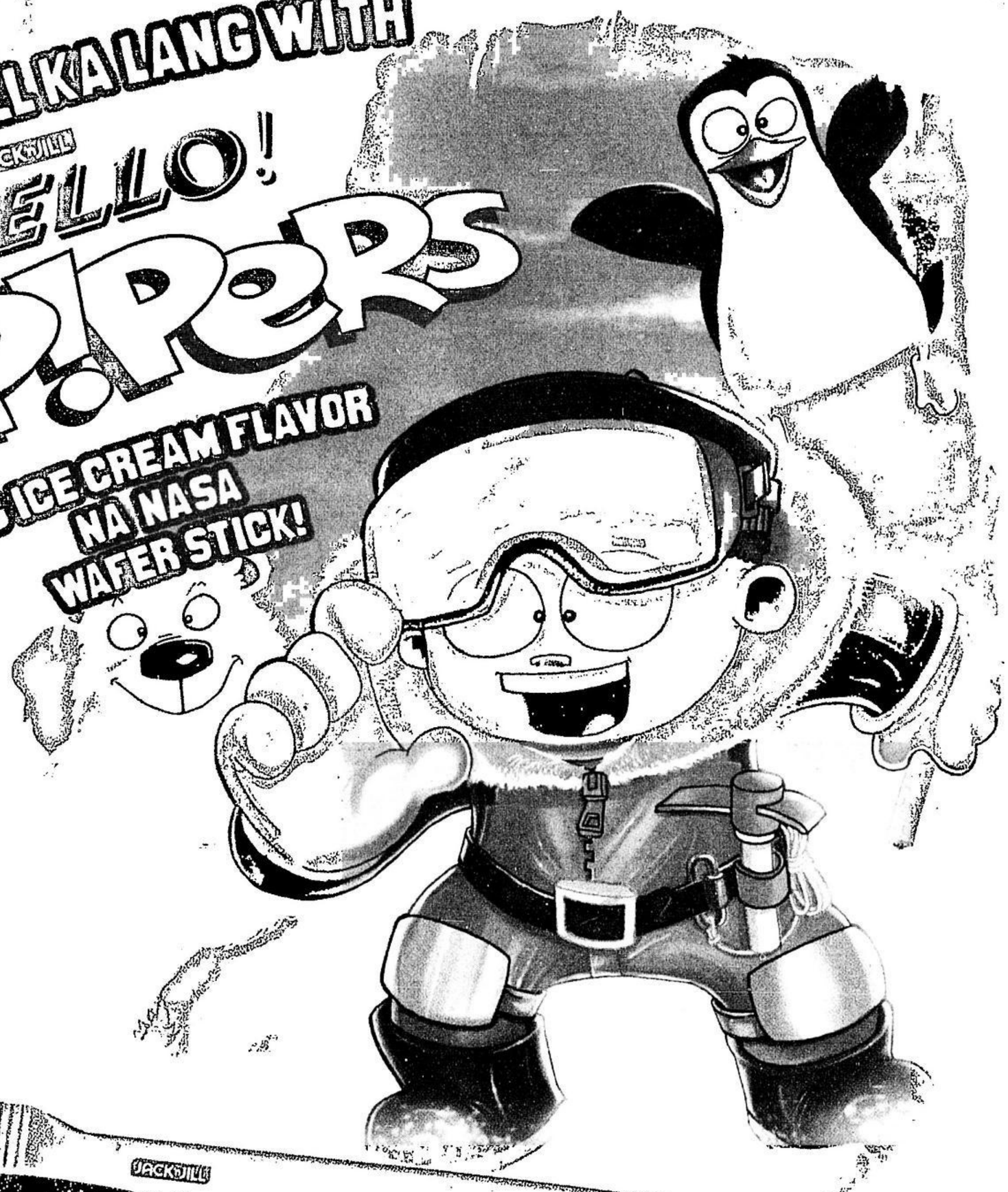


CHILL KA LANG WITH

JACK 'n JILL

HELLO! PIPERS

ANG ICE CREAM FLAVOR NA NASA WAFER STICK!



HELLO! LANG NANG HELLO!

BEST SERVED CHILLED!

1. GET A PACK OF HELLO! PIPERS

2. PLACE IT IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

3. WAIT AT LEAST 30 MINUTES. DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

4. WEAR A WARM JACKET.

5. TAKE OUT THE HELLO! PIPERS FROM THE REFRIGERATOR.

6. ENJOY THE CHILLICIOUS TASTE OF HELLO! PIPERS.

7. REPEAT STEP 1.

FREE

December 9

the Fresh Mag

Clara Henriksson-Sernagard

Fresh and Fab

xmas feasts
holiday hampers
cooking with wine
more!

Designer Hampers
for Those Who Have Everything

Wine and dine in style: Hindy Tantoco's choice (left)

Gourmet chic (left) from classic beauty Sam Eduque

Fit and Fab: Choice items for an active lifestyle from fitness expert Jackielou Blanco

IF YOU think designer items only apply to clothes and accessories, then you'd be wrong. Retail pioneer Rustan's Supermarkets offers exclusive designer hampers and even lets shoppers try their hand at designing their own!

Choose and specify the items you want to include and get great customized gifts year round. Take inspiration from these five discerning women who created special gift baskets tailored for a variety of personalities and occasions.

Perennial "it" girl, classic beauty and Inno Sotto muse Sam Eduque designed the special Gourmet Chic gift basket, which contains items meant to bring out the chef in anyone who receives it. Stylishly arranged in a Picnic Tilob basket, it includes, among others, deli items such as El Gaitero spiced smoked sausage, Montgras Merlot, Montes Chardonnay, olive oil with cinnamon, La Gula del Norte-Al Ajillo picante aceite de oliva con camarones, Carbonell olives manzanilla, and a Touchstone Classic salt and pepper shaker.

All you'll ever need for a family day out in the sun is in the Malou Fores-designed Picnic Treat basket. Malou is the woman behind Mamou, the Serendra bistro that serves up the best steaks in town—clearly Manila's answer to Peter Luger. Malou packed a Coleman Cooler with Tostitos hint of lime tortilla chips, Tostitos salsa con queso, Nature's Sensation winter fruit dried blueberries and cranberries, Lays salt & vinegar stax, Chips Ahoy soft baked chunky cookies and Langers cranberry raspberry juice plus a flannel-back table cloth and Reseau picnic set.

For kids who have the "munchies"

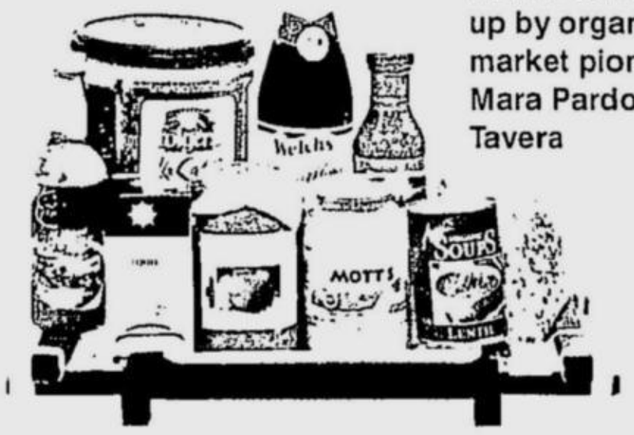
For the perfect gift of health, Mara Pardo De Tavera, who put up the country's first organic market, designed The Organic Way gift package. Set on a Japanese-inspired tray with ceramic plates are organic brown rice, Amy's organic lentil soup, Mott's apple sauce, Welch's sparkling red grape juice, Amy's pasta sauce and Folgers ground lite coffee.

For fitness buffs on the go, fitness expert and television celebrity Jackielou Blanco put together a Fit and Fab gift basket. Stacked on a Scream Skater skateboard are Jackielou's personal picks which include Nature Valley gran bar variety pack, Chips Ahoy 100 calgran bar, Murray sugar-free butter cookies, Aktivade fruit punch, Nature's Path organic instant hot oatmeal, Kretscher wheat germ honey crunch and Twinings raspberry & Echinacea tea.

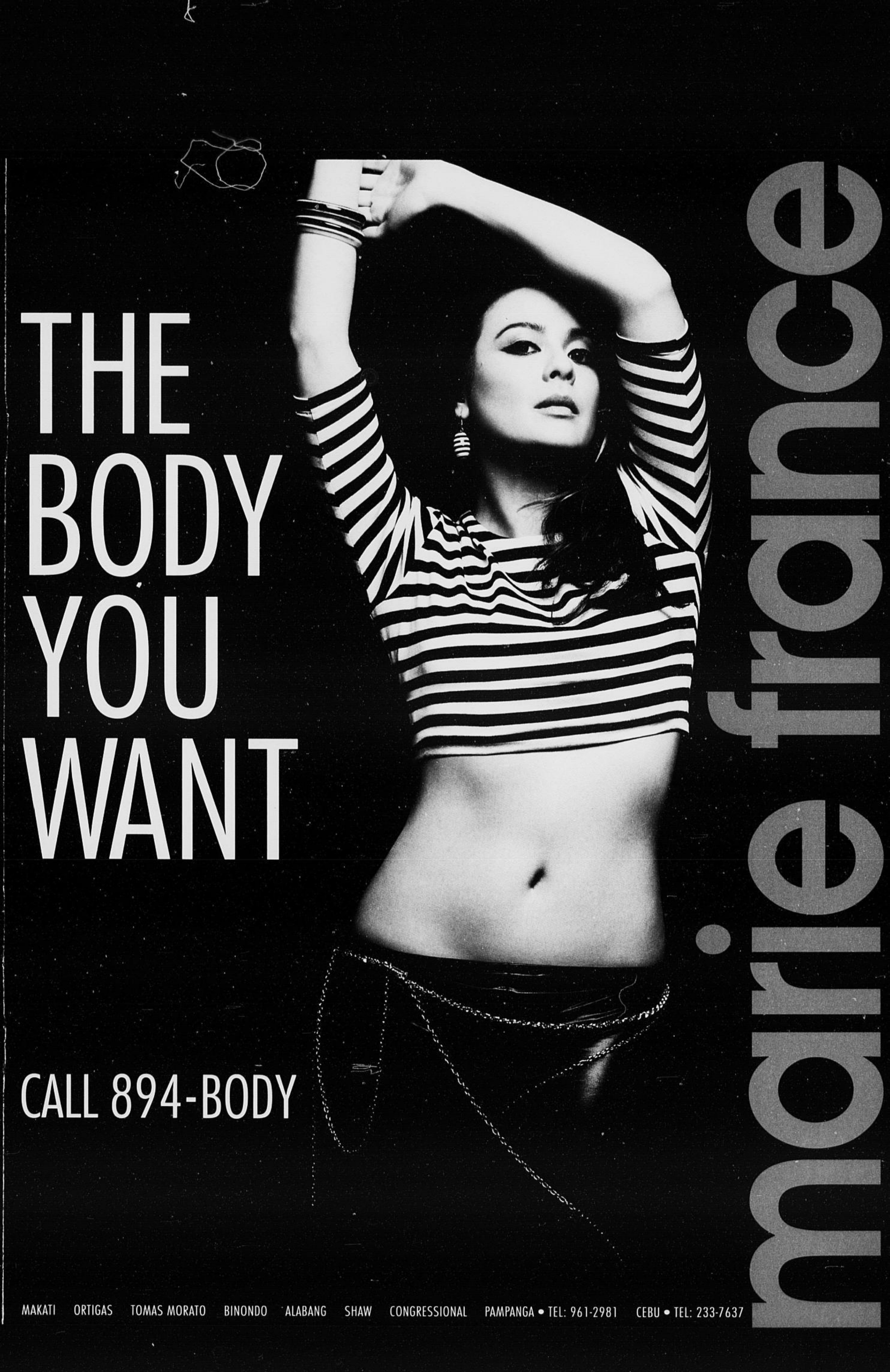
Wine and Dine in style is the special gift basket designed by Hindy Weber-Tantoco. The fashion designer (Culte Femme) filled a silver platter with Asti Martini, Nut Walker black pepper cashew nuts, Marca Piña supreme holiday baby edam cheeseball, Madison wine glasses, flatware, a Touchstone Classic wine corkscrew, a bicycle wine stand and a rose bud for that finishing touch—perfect for that romantic coosome twosome. •

For inquiries or orders, visit or call any of the Rustan's Supermarkets branches at Ayala Center, Makati (893-9275, 817-9385); Rockwell Powerplant Mall (898-1270, 898-1273); Gateway Mall, Cubao (912-0598); Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa (633-4423); Greenbelt 1 (815-9155); San Antonio Plaza, Forbes Park (817-9327, 840-5491); Magallanes (852-1505, 852-8090); Katipunan Road (928.3119, 426-0393); and Corinthian Hills (638-0643, 638-0675).

Family Day for Malou Fores means a Picnic Treat basket (left)



The gift of health served up by organic market pioneer Mara Pardo de Tavera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By Mol Fernando

Christmas Repast Ver. 3G

In this age of free trade, procuring imported items is no longer a challenge. Global age children eat Italian, French, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Indian and Filipino food, e-mail easy recipes or download them onto hand held mobile phones. What legacy do I leave my children to remember as our own Christmas celebration?.

Wanton abandon on Christmas day: (clockwise from top) Butterball turkey, imported cheese, gallantina

FIESTAS, birthdays and other celebrations call for the household to exercise its culinary prowess. This it often does in excess, reaching heights of wanton abandon during Christmas day.

I have vivid memories of the Christmas meals of my childhood. Half asleep, we would motor over to my fraternal grandparents' home in Manila, the nip of the cold December air on my face, the journey ending in a wide awake *Noche Buena*. It always began with fino sherry (for the adults only) accompanied by imported cheeses—*queso de bola marca pato* and *boursin*, and the S&W brand of assorted nuts—walnuts, pecans, hazel nuts, Brazil nuts, almonds. They were imported rarities at that time when poverty was rife and the incumbent president won with the battle cry, "a chicken in every pot."

After the aperitif came the soup. It was *fideos*, chicken broth with fine noodles. Alternatively it could be chicken and asparagus soup with the asparagus from a can, another imported rarity.

Since my father's mom is from Cavite City, the main event began with Cavite style *tamales*. It was made with ground toasted peanuts and rice flour, colored with annatto oil redolent with garlic, and topped with pieces of hard boiled egg, bacon and slivers of boiled chicken. It was steamed in a banana leaf and served warm or cold. Unlike its Pampanga cousin, Cavite *tamales* left its signature oil on the plate. The *tamales* was paired with chicken *gallantina* stuffed with ground pork, Vienna sausage, boiled eggs and olives. Sometimes *lola* served delicious crab *empanadas*, crab meat seasoned with onion and pickled capers (imported again) stuffed into home made dough and fried to perfection, a family favorite. Another hot dish would be chicken pastel served with a flaky pie crust covering the pyrex dish. Or it could be the Cavite Sunday triumvirate of reddish *adobo*, ox tripe and tail *kare-kare* and its triplet *kilawin* Chavacano, which is radish strips and offal, dressed with vinegar and cooked sourish.

My maternal Batangueña grandmother who lived three blocks away was no slack in the kitchen department either. The lead in my first generation experience of Christmas repasts was a formidable *pochero*—stewed beef (*punta y pecho* was the only acceptable cut for this), large chunks of pork liempo, a whole fat chicken and large, very soft pork meatballs. *Garbanzos*, *pechay* and wedges of cabbage lined the edge of a large English willowware *bandehado*. There was also a very tender *lengua* in a brown mushroom sauce and chicken *relleno* (which is roasted stuffed chicken in contrast to the *gallantina* which is steamed). The side dish was macaroni salad with tiny cubes of cheddar cheese and bits of boiled shrimp or, alternatively, a Russian salad with beets imparting an attractive red tint to an otherwise drab potato salad. A *lechon de leche* capped it all to make sure no one went home hungry (or with the mistaken notion that the household just visited was in any way wanting).

Dessert was another chapter of the grand affair. There was *leche flan* of pure carabao's milk with a subtle finish of *dayap* or local lime. Custard made from evaporated milk was "*que horor!*!" plainly unacceptable. There was frozen fruit salad, also a freshly baked Brun butter cake and finally, a fussy Sunkist orange dessert. The Sunkist orange pulp was gouged out of an inch-wide hole cut out on the stem end and replaced with layers of gelatin—red cherry flavor on top, then green apple, orange, and at the bottom, creamy custard, which to me was the best layer. When the Sunkist creation was quartered, the wedges showed off artistic layers of red, green, orange and cream.

The second generation, those of my parents, managed to tone things down a notch. After all, the martial law years culminating in the Edsa revolution did not prove kind to the economy in general. The *tamales*, *gallantina* and *lengua* though went on to become household specialties, the making of which my father would affectionately direct for Christmas. No one really ate them on Christmas day though my brothers and sister would always demand their share to bring home.

No longer are these dishes served together in one Christmas meal, more for lack of experienced help to manage it. Last year it was *gallantina* and *lengua*, and the year before, *tamales* and *lengua*. The *lengua* is a consistent favorite because it keeps well and improves in flavor days after it is cooked. Leftover *lengua* is spectacular the morning after, with buttered *pan de sal*, a dash of Tabasco and a driblet of Perrins sauce.

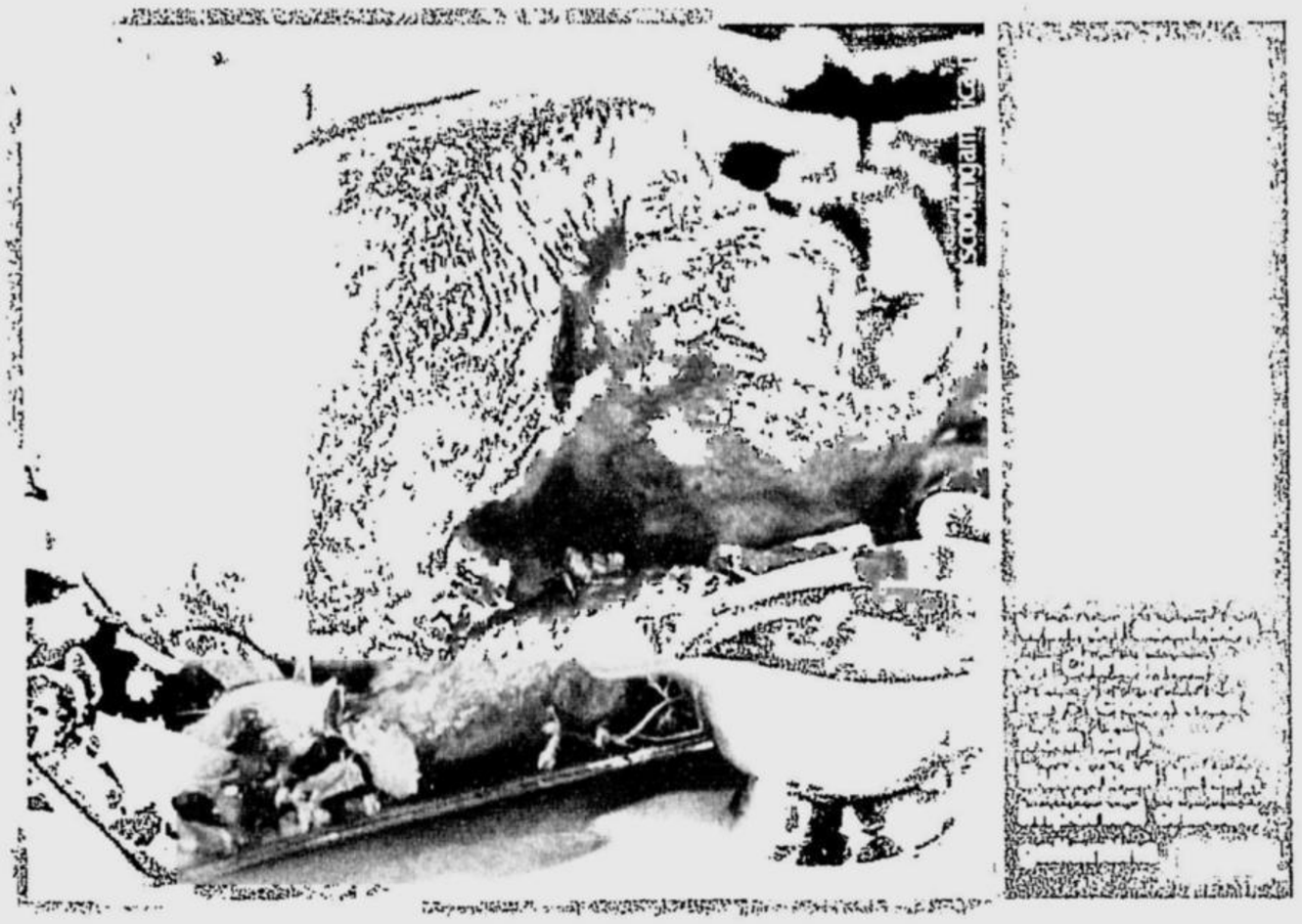
The Christmas meal, though still a main event, is now simpler and more continental. The meal is a

(continued on page 6)

By Mol Fernando

Christmas Feast

In this age of free trade, procuring imported items is no longer a challenge. Global age children eat Italian, French, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Indian and Filipino food, e-mail easy recipes or download them onto hand held mobile phones. What legacy do I leave my children to remember as our own Christmas celebration?



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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Text and photos by Margaux Salcedo

Cookbook Nook

Despite its obscure location, Cookbook Kitchen has gained quite a good reputation by word of mouth. The menu appears simple but the effort to create something extraordinary is evident

Strawberry Shortcake Overload: The meal's highlight

IT'S always wonderful to suddenly find a cozy. little nook on what you thought was an already familiar street. "I always pass this way but I never saw this before!" you exclaim in delighted surprise.

That's the feeling you get when you discover Cookbook Kitchen. For those familiar with the Wilson-Shaw-Nueve de Febrero route to Makati, you must have passed Mencias Street more than a dozen times in the past (Mencias is that middle road that connects P. Guevarra to Shaw). Yet unbeknownst to you, just off Mencias is a cozy little nook called Cookbook Kitchen.

It can be hell to find if you're not familiar with Mandaluyong. My dinner date Nana Nadal, who ironically gave me directions to the restaurant, called from her car 10 minutes after our set meeting time. I had already found my way, comfortably seated in the resto. "I'm lost!" she screamed into the phone, apparently in a desperate rattle. I had gotten lost at the exact same spot fifteen minutes prior, understood how she felt and stayed with her on the phone until she found her way.

All stress is left on Mencias, though, thank God. Once you turn left into Socorro Fernandez, it's good news' turn. On my first visit, on a rainy day, I found their doorman already by the road, ready to meet me with an umbrella as I approached the restaurant. And I didn't even have a reservation. "Great first impression," I thought. When I entered I was greeted by not one but three waitresses. "Slow night," I thought wryly. But in fact three other tables were occupied. Considering the size of the room and the obscurity of the location, I was impressed by the dinner population, especially because it was a weekday.

The atmosphere is relaxing. Van Gogh's Cafe at Night has been reproduced on the restaurant's main wall, extending the room to the streets of southern France. Walls are a cool yellow. Cookbooks sit on hanging shelves. Only one funny detail: a petite awning hangs inside the room. There is dust instead of rain to catch but it's an attempt to complete the Cafe Terrace at Night theme, I believe.

The menu appears simple but the effort to create something extraordinary is evident in the food. Parmesan crusted white fish has a lovely, light appeal that emphasizes the flavor of the dory instead of being drowned in cheese. The CBK Chicken is stuffed with mozzarella and ham and drizzled with chopped basil leaves. The chicken is tender and grilled just right, the play of basil against ham and cheese adding an extra dimension to what would otherwise have been an ordinary dish.

The pastas are less impressive. The Frutti di Mare was ordinary if not forgettable. If you must have pasta, go for the Ragu bolognese, which is tasty although borderline oily. The tomatoes and ground meat are delivered generously, making it a rich pasta experience.

Dessert can be the highlight of your meal. The cakes arrive in huge domes. Don't make the mistake of ordering for yourself alone; an order can serve three. The Decadent Chocolate Rum Cake, a deceptive creature, is moist yet surprisingly light. If you can manage multi-tasking three hundred words a minute while chewing, like I do, you will find the cake gone before you know it. Only half an hour later, when the need to unhook the belt arises, will you realize you'd consumed too much. Another deceptive dome is the Strawberry Shortcake Overload. The light texture of the cake's body makes it easy to welcome the accompanying thick cream that cloaks it. The strawberries, tart and sweet, take you back to childhood summers in Baguio and complete the Cookbook Kitchen experience.

Try to find a spot away from the wall east of the Van Gogh. There is a divider that blocks the waitresses' view of you and although they are

Relaxing: The interiors at Cookbook Kitchen

ready to help, it becomes difficult to catch their attention. Don't look for wine to accompany your meal. There is no wine list, which was quite a disappointment, considering the effort placed on delivering well thought-out recipes. Do make a reservation if you plan to come on a weekend. The restaurant has gained quite a good reputation by word of mouth and weekends get busy.

All in all, Cookbook Kitchen is a pleasant find. Nothing over the top yet nothing too simple either. If this was the Yellow House where Van Gogh stayed, he would have had no paranoia of poisoning, to be sure. With such pleasant meals and delightful desserts, I bet he would have maintained his sanity and not cut off part of his ear. •

***Cookbook Kitchen**. 8 Socorro Fernandez Street, Mandaluyong. Tel. no. 724-3595. From Wilson, left on P. Guevarra, straight to Mencias (middle road leading to Shaw), left on Socorro Fernandez (there is a GYM sign). Casual. Major credit cards accepted. Wheelchair access from the street.*

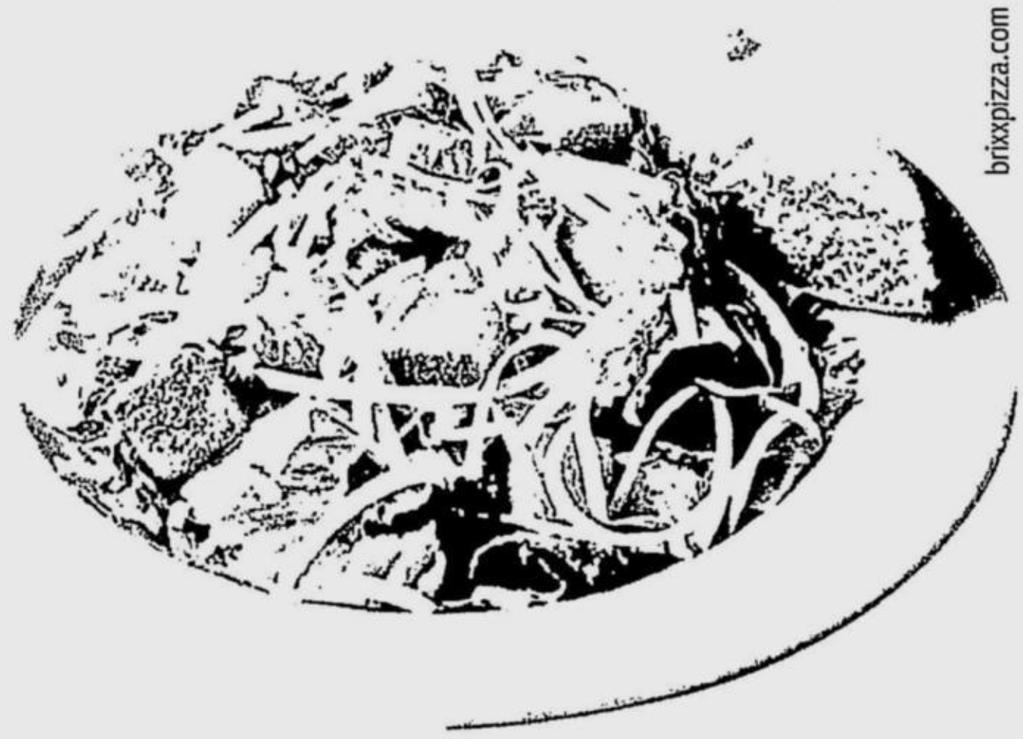
First Person
By Alya B. Honasan

Love is a Caesar's Salad

We nibbled on leaves and crunched on croutons as a family, huddling together in the cool Tagaytay weather. I knew then that it didn't quite matter what we were eating, as long as we were eating together––me and the people I love most on this earth

I GREW up with a big man for a father and five big, hungry older brothers, so meals at home were never dainty affairs. When there was a dead animal involved, it was usually a massacre. One of my brothers could stick a whole chicken drumstick in his mouth and pull it out clean, and my Mom had to pre-mix her *paella* in a big wash basin; she couldn't find a *paellera* big enough.

Since both my parents are of Spanish descent, Christmas feasts were big, soupy, saucy affairs, long before the days of cholesterol count. We would usually get too hungry to wait until after Midnight Mass, so we'd start early, eating noisily and grabbing food with oily hands from across the table; no time or space for cutlery or niceties here. With her able house help—never me, I was useless—Mom would whip up *jamon* seared with brown sugar and baked in pineapple juice, *paella* with mussels and crabs big enough to snip your nose off, *pochero* with chunks of fatty beef, *garbanzos*, and a broth boiled from ham bones, a sans rival that was at least eight layers thick, four or five leche flans, and a definitive *callos* that, to my siblings and me, will remain unmatched in our hearts and stomachs until we all leave this earth.



brixxpizza.com

"Spartan," by holiday standards

I've already lost my father and three brothers, and I miss their hearty eating just as much as I miss Mom's *callos*, since I've given up eating meat. In fact, it remains the only meat dish I really long for sometimes, before beliefs put a damper on my gluttony.

What remains truly vivid in my mind is my Dad's last Christmas before his death in April 1983. We were in our Tagaytay vacation house with a gaggle of grandchildren, and we had the usual riotous dinner, complete with a blazing fireplace and bottles of sparkling wine. The next morning, stuffed and weary of the excess, my Dad, who already had a heart condition at the time, asked my sister-in-law Jane to make some Caesar's Salad for lunch. The dish was just becoming popular in Manila's restaurants then, and Jane had perfected the dressing. I remember my father eating platefuls with gusto, never mind if the dressing wasn't exactly healthy, a sticky glob of egg yolks and oil. Although by our holiday standards, that was a Spartan meal, it didn't feel like it. We nibbled on leaves and crunched on croutons as a family, huddling together in the cool Tagaytay weather, and I knew then that it didn't quite matter what we were eating, as long as we were eating together—me and the people I love most on this earth.

After my Dad died, life did go on, despite the empty place at our table—and in my heart—that will always be his alone. Next year, it will be 25 years since he dropped out of our Christmas dinners. Mom got too lazy and old for marathon cookfests, so Jane and my other sister-in-law Leah took over (I'm still useless—how consistent is that?). There would be updated *callos* and ham and *lechon* and turkey, and for me nowadays, pasta and sea bass and ordered sushi. But, come to think of it, we never really had Caesar's Salad again.

Christmas Repast Ver. 3G (from page 4)

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Now for the rich, fancy desserts: a really fat log of Brazo de Mercedes or a double torte oozing with sliced pili nuts—both products of my *lola*'s baking talent and sweet tooth—are now no more. Instead, we order moist prune cake and Valrohna chocolate gateau from boutique bakeries in Greenhills and Makati.

My kids are now at the age when I had my gastronomical awakenings with my two *lolas*' *Noche Buena* and Christmas day feasts. In this age of free trade, procuring imported items is no longer a challenge. Global age children are cosmopolitan, eat Italian, French, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Indian and Filipino and communicate across continents via video images. They email easy recipes or learn about them from podcasts downloaded onto hand held mobile phones capable of storing 3,000 songs and tracking the physical whereabouts of friends. What legacy do I leave my children to remember as our own Christmas celebration, in their jargon, "Christmas Repast ver. 3G"?

A friend of mine through an e-group once wrote, "I worked, studied and lived in the States for almost three decades but I would rather die old and poor in my own country, than reside in the USA again... maybe I'm no longer cut out for the rat race... *mas magaling pa ako maglaba at mamalantsa ng damit kaysa katulong namin dito sa Maynila... pero ang galing ng* support system *dito...*"

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Kirk and Ciara during their traditional *pamanhikan* at The Conservatory, The Peninsula, Manila on Dec. 10, 2006. Kirk in a floral *piña barong* by Patis Tesoro. Ciara in Ivar Aseron.

Starting Afresh

With the honeymoon over, newly married jewelry designer Ciara Marasigan-Serumgard finds herself packing a lifetime in boxes as she leaves for her new home in California

SHE did not marry the boy next door, much to her family's delight. Her Uncle Ado Escudero had set his sights on a 35-year-old distant nephew, Kirk Serumgard, as the perfect match for his 26-year-old niece, jewelry designer Ciara Marasigan.

Ciara was then involved with a man whom the family did not approve of, so on one of Kirk's rare visits to the Philippines, an elaborate party was set up to get the young couple together. It worked! Ciara and Kirk were engaged months later and subsequently wed.

Fast-forward to the present: With the honeymoon over, Ciara is set to leave behind everyone and everything she is familiar with, to start afresh in a suburban town in California. SIM meets her a month before her departure as she packs a lifetime in boxes and copes with anxieties about learning to drive, mastering the intricacies of ironing and being "queen bee" in her new home.

What preparations have you made for your move to another country?

I am working on a transition with my mother and my assistant, who will continue my business in Manila in my absence. I've finished two driving courses and plan to get a license before I leave. I'm spending as much time as I can with family and friends, and with that, I hope they realize how valuable they are, and how much I'll miss them.

Are you prepared to manage a household? Is your husband pitching in?

I'm definitely up for it! Now that it's just my husband and me, I'm sure it will be manageable. But when the children come, I'll have to train for an efficient "assembly line." I'm still very much dependent on my cookbooks but quite happy with my mean *enchilada*. We both love bacon but cooking it becomes a kitchen disaster every time. The smoke alarm always goes off! Laundry is effortless with the washing machine. But I have yet to learn how to iron well. As much as possible, I'll try to do everything but I'm sure my husband will insist on doing his "snowballing" technique with the leftovers. Oh no!

What is your biggest fear in moving to a new country? Have you ever lived on your own?

Life in Manila has been cozy with the warmth of family, great friends, and familiarity. My biggest fear is the loneliness which is almost impossible to feel in the Philippines. That's why I plan to visit as often as I can, and during my time in Manila, to continue to see my clients.

What are you looking forward to in moving to your own place?

Having my own home with my husband. I love the idea of finally having a house of browns and reds since my mother has always gravitated towards soothing blues and greens. And of course, there's only one queen bee for every home, and I would love to experience that!

Can you describe your new home, the town and neighborhood?

My husband and I are eyeing an old house in the Tower District of Fresno, California, which is near my husband's place of assignment as a Walgreens Doctor of Pharmacy. We are looking for a highland home with a lot of trees. To get a dose of city life that I enjoy, we'll frequent my in-laws' Studio City home which is a two-and-a half-hour drive away.

What three things are you sure to bring with you on your move?

1) As much of my wardrobe as I can possibly pack! God bless my husband.
2) Dermatological products to continue my serious skin regimen
3) Filipino delicacies like coconut vinegar

What will keep you busy when you move to your new country?

I'll contact museum shops that might be interested in my jewelry collection. My big dream is to have my own international brand, Cristal Fantaisie by Ciara. I will also try to cook as well as I love to eat! •

By Rina Jimenez David

Memories of Christmas Staples

Christmas food memories need to be sustained by the flavor and richness of actual food, building on the remembrance with aroma and texture, presentation and passion

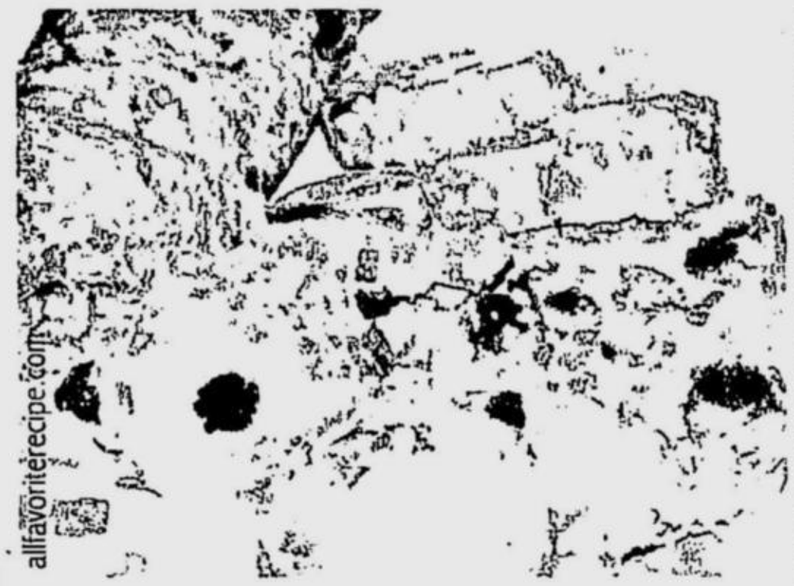
DURING my childhood, I knew we were getting ready for the Christmas feast when Mama brought out of storage a tall white enameled vat in which she would mix her frozen fruit salad.

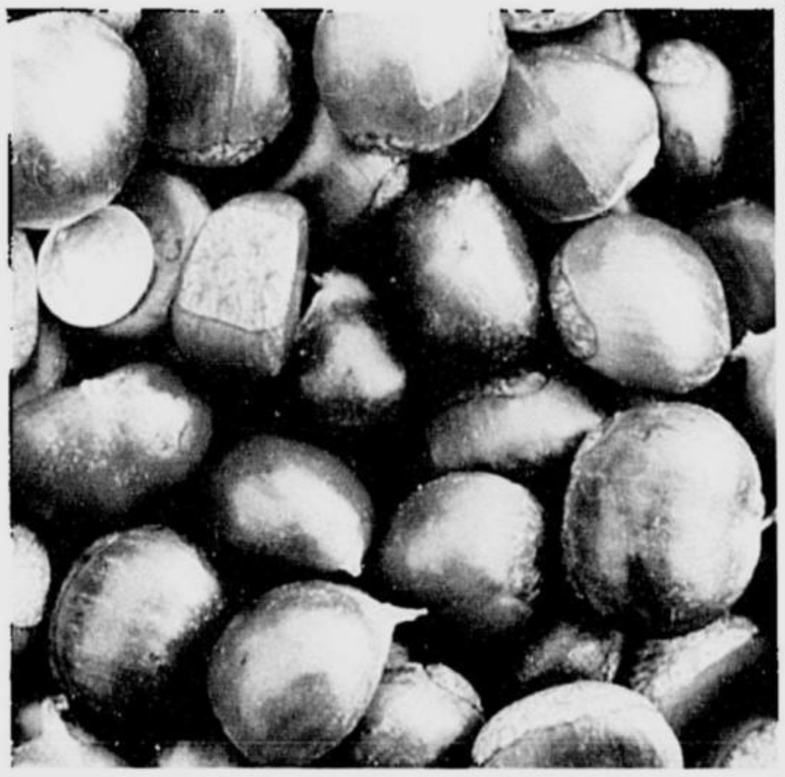
When I was old enough—or perhaps tall enough to stand on a chair and look into the vat—Mama enlisted me as her assistant. While she chopped and diced fruit, grated cheese and opened cans, I would stand at the ready, alert to any need to pour in the many ingredients. That's why, for me, the tang of chopped apples, the cloying sweetness of *condensada*, the tart sweetness of canned fruit cocktail, and the earthy aroma of grated fresh coconut all combine to create a distinct Christmas memory—the aroma of Mama's fruit salad.

Christmas hams would come and go, depending on the family's state of finances, and the fruit salad would have one more or one less ingredient, but a constant at our family Christmas table was *embutido* from Mama's hometown of Alaminos, Pangasinan. She would order it from her favorite cook who would burst into our Cubao home a week or so before Christmas, jolly and rotund, like a homegrown Mrs. Claus, bearing the banana leaf-wrapped rolls of embutido bursting with boiled egg, fat raisins, chopped red pepper and bits of ham and ground meat encased in fatty pork membrane called *sinsal*. The adults preferred the *embutido* steamed and pale, but I loved it when, recycled as ordinary fare, it would be fried and turn dark, best taken with ketchup.

Christmas goodies were a rarity in the house where I grew up, mainly because there were nine of us children competing for them. Apples would have to be sliced thinly so each of us could at least have a taste of the (then) expensive imported fruit. Mama also kept a sharp eye on the grape consumption, making sure we all had an equal share out of the one or two bunches she could afford. But the rarest treat of all was *castañas*, chestnuts roasted not in open fires, but in huge *kawas* or metal woks, with hot stones to ensure an even temperature. Mama doled out the chestnuts sparingly, and I would agonize as I glimpsed the bag shrinking as everyone got his or her share. I would badger my siblings for their share, or else promise to do chores in exchange, for after one bite of the sweet chestnuts still bearing traces of the hot *kawa* and I was in love.

When I began earning my own money, I went apple- and grape-buying with a vengeance every Christmas, though the novelty and rarity of these imported fruits faded in time. But my love affair





Childhood favorites: *Embutido* (top) and chestnuts

with *castañas* continues to this day. I know the season is upon us when I spot *castañas* stands in supermarkets and malls. I cannot pass one by without buying a kilo or two, dipping into the hot contents as soon as decently possible, and downing it with cold Diet Coke. (Ahh, bliss!)

When I got married and was suddenly burdened with the task of running a household, I panicked at the thought of throwing my first Christmas feast. Fortunately, my husband is a more-than-manageable cook and for that first Christmas, at least, drew up a menu heartbreaking in its simplicity.

All he wanted, he said, was to taste again "Mommy's chicken asparagus soup." And so it was that after indulging at the groaning table in Cubao with the rest of the Jimenezes, and the raucous exchange of gifts, we arrived home in Mandaluyong (his parents' home which we shared with his sister Bel and her family) to silence and a lonely bowl of soup. I was feeling terribly homesick as this was a just few days after the wedding, and heartsick as well because I thought I had doomed myself to Christmas repasts of chicken asparagus soup. But fortunately for our Christmases and our marriage, our Spartan menu has become more elaborate through the years.

The center of our Yuletide feasting is the hubby's *morcon*, though it is served during New Year's Eve dinner because its round slices are thought to be omens of good fortune. In the David family, the *morcon* is deemed the men's responsibility, and so while Pie learned it at his Daddy Maning's side, our son Pie² has likewise had his *morcon* tutorials fetching ingredients and helping tie up the rolled sheets of sirloin (into which have been stuffed fried scrambled egg, pork fat, strips of Edam Cheese or Quezo de Bola, pickles, Chorizo Macau and Chorizo Bilbao).

So popular has the *morcon* become that sometimes we give away platefuls of them as gifts. But like my childhood *embutido*, I like the *morcon* best a few days after it's been marinated and boiled in a mixture of soy sauce, calamansi and sugar. I let the househelp fry the slices until the cheese melts, and, taken with the reheated marinade reduction, the *morcon* is good enough to extend the holiday wishes well past the Feast of Three Kings.

When we were still living in Mandaluyong, nothing would do but to have Adelina's Ham take center stage on the table. I would brave the traffic and crowds and patiently line up at the main Adelina's store in Kalentong, praying a leg of ham would still be left for our family. When we moved to Antipolo, we discovered an outlet in the Greenhills Commercial Center, and it soon became a Christmas habit to include it in my rounds on Dec. 24, swinging by to fetch a whole leg or a kilo of sliced ham. (We have also found a new Adelina's outlet in Tiendesitas, which is nearer our home.)

Speaking of Tiendesitas, this is also where we buy what's become a new holiday staple: Dulcelin Frozen Mango Torte, which comes in spanking red and gold boxes. Last Christmas, I had ordered ahead four or five tortes which had been bundled up in a black plastic trash bag. As I was walking away, Bobby Barreiro blocked my path, saying: "Aha, so you're the one who made *pakyaw* all the mango tortes!" I smiled sheepishly, but moved to shield my precious loot from his covetous eyes.

Some precious Christmas food memories,

(continued on page 9)

By Micky Fenix

Yuletide lunch at Lola's

Our family lived near Lola's place, a blessing because my introduction to good cooking was in her bountiful kitchen

The author's own *Noche Buena* table, hopefully worthy of *Lola*.

UNLIKE my cousins, my siblings and I were always privy to preparations for Christmas lunch at my grandparents' home. This was because my family always lived nearby, an arrangement that I never inquired about. But I always considered the closeness a blessing, more so now that I'm writing about food because my introduction to good cooking was at my *Lola*'s kitchen.

Mayonnaise was the first thing the older siblings had to help make. It was a dreary repetitive chore of stirring the mixture of oil and egg yolk. There was no escaping the task because when *Lola* told you to do it, you just had to. The only way one could go out and play was by feigning the mistake of stirring in the opposite direction. That created what my *Lola* termed as "*nakurta*," when the oil separates from the mixture. You had to suffer a spanking, a scolding and being banished out of the kitchen because she had to correct the mixture. You had to shed crocodile tears, of course.

Lola's creamy delicious mayonnaise would bind her potato salad and top the steamed white fish. It spoiled my taste buds so that commercial mayonnaise would become a poor substitute that I have to use because I don't have the patience for the slow deliberate way of making my own.

Days before Christmas, ham was bought somewhere in Quiapo. This was *jamon en funda*, Chinese ham that came in a cloth casing that looked like a pillow case, hence the name.

The Chinese ham was too salty for me no matter that it was washed several times before being sliced. And it was always dry and tough. But my parents, aunts and uncles clearly loved it. When I was as old as they were then, I learned to appreciate the air-dried Chinese ham. Perhaps a bit of maturity in the taste buds was needed.

But when my *Lola* switched to ham bought at Excellente in Echague sometime in my grade school years, that was my idea of a proper ham. I just had to watch her bake this American-style ham. She would bathe it in pineapple juice, score the skin in a crisscross pattern, place cloves (*clavo de comer*) at the intersecting lines and cover the ham with brown sugar. I can still smell the aroma of juice and glazing sugar with bits of cloves emanating from the oven. The only jarring experience was when I happened to bite on one clove, because it reminded me of the dentist's tooth filling.

Fowl was always present during Christmas lunch. Whether turkey or chicken, I could still see the creatures walking at the back area near the kitchen door. When I heard the squawking sounds, I knew *Lola* was ready to cook the fowl. It fascinated me then how *Lola*, who I thought was so old by then, managed to do all those physical things by herself.

I can still taste the juicy turkeys and chickens *Lola* cooked for Christmas. But the best ever was the way she cooked *capon*. That was done in my high school years when *Lola* no longer did live chicken. My uncle who worked with San Miguel Corporation reserved the fattest and biggest pieces for her. She would do her *relleno* that involved deboning the chicken and stuffing it with ground pork enriched with chorizo Bilbao. Years later, my sister who is the cook of the family, asked *Lola* to teach her to debone fowl. *Lola* had mellowed by then and taught her. In her prime, *Lola* considered it a nuisance when people asked her for recipes and the how-to's of cooking. That's my excuse for not learning.

Perhaps the most difficult task I was required to do was to stir the thick gooey *ube halaya*. No telling *Lola* that it was too difficult (children were not allowed to speak their minds then). So I struggled to follow the right stirring pace or else the *halaya* would burn at the bottom of the big pan (*talyasi*). I sweated through it but *Lola* always knew when to take over so I never really suffered. That was my contribution to the Christmas lunch.

Dressed in my Christmas finery, I would wait for my cousins' cars to drive up. No one minded us children as we ate as much as we wanted of my *Lola's* dishes. We stashed away as much as we could of the fruits and chocolates that were only available during that season.

Christmas evening was when my siblings and I walked home after that long lunch. I've always thought it to be a depressing time. Psychologists tell me that after the sugar-high of the lunch, the mood sinks at night. I know I always slept early. But I woke up renewed the next day for another bout of eating. It was always breakfast with *Lolo* and his ham cooked with sugar, half moons of *queso de bola* and *pan de sal*. Lunch was a feast of leftovers, a time when I really tasted what Lola had served during Christmas. And in between all that, we were stealing tastes of my booty, imported fruits like grapes and pears and both English and American chocolates. •

Email the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

Memories of Christmas Staples (from page 8)

though, must remain memories. With Mama gone, and none of us nine siblings able to recapture her frozen fruit salad recipe, it's basically remained in the realm of imagination. Every Dec. 25, Pie and I also host the yearly David clan lunch, and for many years we looked forward to the *kare-kare* of Tiang Nen Facundo. Unlike its more commercial versions, her *kare-kare* was dark red or intense orange, shimmering with pork and beef fat, rich with the flavor of peanuts and toasted rice grains. But after Tiang Nen's passing, the *kare-kare* at our Christmas lunches was never the same again, even if her daughters try their mighty best.

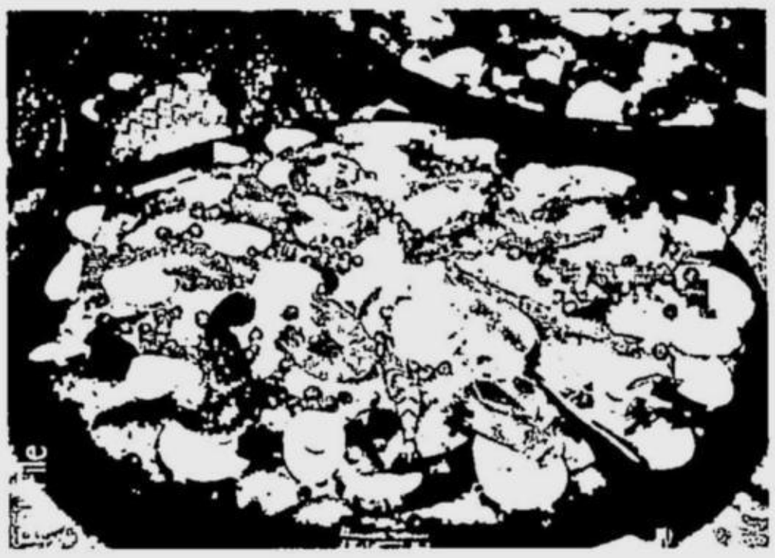
Which just goes to show that Christmas food memories need to be sustained by the flavor and richness of actual food, building on the remembrance with aroma and texture, presentation and passion. Family cooks would do well to pass on their heirloom Christmas recipes to whoever in the next generation shows a penchant for cuisine, or else even the strongest memories of their specialties will fade with time and dulled palates.

Unfortunately for me, my culinary legacy will have to remain my fantastic grilled cheese sandwich. But I'm fairly certain that if my children review their Christmas food memories, they will recall with fondness their mother who knew the best places to buy the food they so lovingly remember. •

By Ambeth Ocampo

A Culinary Russian Roulette

There is something about Christmas feasts that warms both the heart and the gut. The same dishes are served year in and year out at the family Noche Buena, yet we never tire of the menu. We actually look forward to it



Typical Kapampangan feast: *Paella* (far left), ham, *embutido*, *queso de bola*.

PASSING through the North Luzon Expressway during the holidays and coming within sight of Mt. Arayat—that dormant volcano immortalized in the canvases of Fernando Amorsolo—one can't miss the white herons dotting the rice fields. These migratory birds come to our islands each year to escape the winter in China. I have once been called a barbarian for asking aloud whether these graceful birds are edible. I've always imagined them best served roasted, fried, stuffed, or swimming in some dark but tasty sauce or gravy. But I guess these perennial visitors are too swift to become dinner; I only entertained the idea of tasting herons to add something new to the lechon on our Christmas table.

There is something about Christmas feasts that warms both the heart and the gut. The same dishes are served year in and year out at the family Noche Buena, yet we never tire of the menu. We actually look forward to it.

Christmas Eve, as far as I can remember, has always been in my grandparents' home in San Fernando, Pampanga, and followed the Midnight Mass which these days is often "anticipated" and held at a more convenient time. Cool December air makes for a hearty appetite and an appreciation for the scalding hot chicken and pork *nilaga* with added yuletide zest from roasted ham bone tossed in to enrich the stock. Despite dietary restrictions the best pork rib and belly come complete with jiggling fat (*gumagalgal a taba* as they call it) that everyone looks for but leaves on their plate.

Standard fiesta fare found on the long mahogany dining table was definitely labor intensive: *rellenong bangus*, *rellenong manuc* (better known as *galantina*), thick generous slices of aged *queso de bola* of the traditional Marca Piña or Marca Pato brand wrapped in red cellophane that cannot be found in the Netherlands. To complete the Kapampangan feast, there will be *tamales*, glazed ham topped with pineapple rings and maraschino cherries, frozen fruit salad, and Spanish *paella* indigenized in Pampanga where sticky rice is given a distinctive green color for lack of saffron.

Fish is usually big with the meat covered in mayonnaise. *Apahap* was once considered the only fish suitable for a fiesta table, not so much because of its meat or taste, but rather because it was the most expensive. At the center of this garden of earthly delights is the *lechon* or suckling pig that used to come with an apple in its snout. My favorite aunt prepares the most deadly freshly-popped *chicharon* with *laman* in the world, best enjoyed with homemade *achara*. We are assured that everything is healthy. The *chicharon* is deep-fried in canola oil and the *lechon* comes from an organic farm and is fed nothing but arugula before it is roasted.

Dessert, for the young ones and the young once, is just as important as the main course. Two separate tables groaning with sweets are proof that Pampanga is not a sugar and rice-producing province for nothing. There is a wide range of choices: hot chocolate with *duman* (young, green, semi-sticky rice only sold in the Christmas season at P2,000 per kilo. It is served chewy and raw or fried and is thus called *pinipig*), and *tibuk-tibuk* (loosely translated as "shaking" because it does jiggle like Jello) made of nipa sugar and carabao milk topped with *latik* or sweet curdled coconut milk. Then the usual suspects: *haleyang ube*, *leche flan* (as my mother made them with duck eggs, carabao milk and *dayap* rind), and *tocino del cielo* (known to the children as "mini-*leche flan*" which it is, except that each bite size portion contains one whole egg yolk), *pastillas* from carabao milk yet again, *yema*, *turron de casuy*, *banca-banca*, and even the hollow puffy sweet called *taklang pusa* (literally "cat shit," it is better known by its lame Tagalog name *linga*).

Commercial cakes in their fancy boxes are brought in, but none are as well received as *sans rival* (from the French "without rival" since it is a deadly combination of sugar, butter, and multi-layered wafer topped with roasted cashew nuts).

This is my own remembrance of Yuletides past and present, and I wonder how we have lived this long despite these Christmas dinners that, come to think of it, seem very much like culinary Russian roulette. •

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SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	9 3	
2		7
7	1	6
6 8		5
	5 4	
2	6	9
5	1	3
4		
	2 6	8

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ Answers in PDI, Dec 10 issue 12/09

Answer to previous puzzle

7	3	6	8	2	5	1	4	9
1	2	4	9	7	6	3	8	5
8	5	9	4	1	3	7	2	6
6	7	1	5	4	8	9	3	2
5	9	2	6	3	1	8	7	4
4	8	3	2	9	7	6	5	1
2	6	7	3	5	9	4	1	8
9	1	5	7	8	4	2	6	3
3	4	8	1	6	2	5	9	7

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Difficulty Level ★★★★ PDI, Dec. 8

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Figure It Out

P24.15: The monthly average of the dollar-peso conversion rate in 1994

P56.18: The average dollar-peso rate in 2004

P49.47: The rate in 2006

P26,999: Estimated cost of a Sony Handycam

P27,995: Estimated cost of a Nokia N73

P16,190: Estimated cost of a 30 GB iPod video

P22: Cost per kilo of regular milled rice in Metro Manila

P135: Cost per kilo of pork ham

P110-P120: Cost of whole chicken

P100: Cost per kilo of *galunggong* fish

44,000: Average total kilos of pork and beef sold by Rustan's on December 23, the biggest shopping day of the year

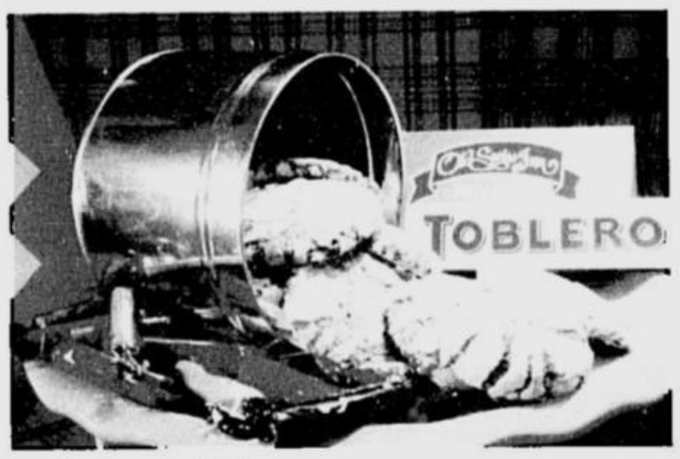
9,000: Average total kilos of pork and beef sold on an average day at Rustan's

30,000: Estimated total pieces of ham sold on Dec.23 at Rustan's

2,600: Estimated total pieces of ham sold on average days at Rustan's

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research
Sources: Inquirer Archives, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Rustan's

Roasted leg of lamb



Toblerone crinkles

Potluck Parties

DON'T we all wish we could recreate *Lola*'s lavish Noche Buena spread or *Nanay*'s much-awaited home-cooked fiesta fare when the season for Christmas parties roll around?

Failing that, we can always run to the nearest boutique bakeshops, delis and restaurants that offer take-out dishes and desserts that rise to the occasion and hopefully, can approximate our cherished memories of Christmas repast. Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Old Swiss Inn**—for roasted rack of lamb, baked pork knuckles, roasted leg of lamb, honey glazed ham, roasted Butterball turkey, assorted European sausages and whole corned beef slab. For dessert, their Holiday Gift Baskets also offer Toblerone cheesecake, Toblerone White Chocolate Bread Pudding, Toblerone Crinkles, and Toblerone Treasures. For inquiries, call 818-8251, 818-0098 or 0918-9991010, or e-mail oldswissinn@yahoo.com

2. **Kitaro Party packages**—choice of rice toppings with either oyakudon, beef yakinikudon, gyudon and tendon, tofu steku and omu beef, trays of sushi, bento boxes of either beef yakiniku, tonkatsu or sakana furai, desserts of either chocolate cakes, fruit jello or mango panna cotta, and drinks. From P2,600 (for 10 persons) to P9,000 for 30. Call 911-1115 for delivery.

3. **Tsoko.Nut Batirol**—for old-fashioned *tsokolate eh* drinks, traditional ham cooked the old-fashioned way, P330 for approximately 900 gms., and mini Tablea Cakes made Leyte's cacao beans probably the best variety in the country—P 90. Log on to www.tsokonutbatirol.com for details and inquiries. •

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By Eric S. Caruncho

A Spirited Celebration

Good wine completes a meal. Sometimes it starts with the cooking

Photos courtesy of Rustan's

COOKING with wine used to be seen as the height of sophistication. That was when wines were rarely seen on the Filipino dining table, let alone in the kitchen.

But more and more Filipino gourmands have taken to drinking wine as part of the meal, and Filipino diners have become more knowledgeable about the qualities of particular vintages.

Similarly, Filipino chefs are now more adventurous in incorporating wine into their recipes. Cooking with wine isn't rocket science, really, as long as you consider a few basic principles, says Chef Rolando Laudico of Bistro Filipino.

"If you're cooking with wine, don't use anything that you wouldn't want to drink yourself. But you don't really need to use expensive ones either," he says. Cooking with wine is "like pairing wine with food," he continues. "Use light wines for delicate lighter dishes and heavy bodied ones for more robust and hearty dishes."

Laudico shares two simple ways of using red wine as a sauce component—for desserts and for savory dishes.

Wine for dessert sauce

1 bottle of red wine
1/2 cup sugar
1 vanilla bean or vanilla essence

Gently simmer all ingredients together until the mixture is reduced to one cup. Chill, and use as sauce for poached fruits, cakes, ice cream or any favorite dessert.

For savory sauce

1 bottle red wine
1 cup meat stock (chicken or beef)
3 tbsp cold butter
fresh herbs

Simmer wine until reduced to 1 cup. Add 1 cup stock and simmer for 5 minutes more. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper, add fresh herbs. Take out from heat then swirl in 3 tbsp. of butter until sauce thickens a little. Serve with your favorite steak, chicken or meats. •

How to cook with wine

1. Wine is known to release flavors in food so use it to intensify and enhance the flavor of many dishes.

2. If you're unsure about how much wine to use, start with very little and sample your dish as you cook. Add more wine as needed.

3. Boiling down wine concentrates the flavor, including acidity and sweetness. Be reminded though that the flavor of wine in cooking is derived from the nature of the wine and not the alcohol. Most of the alcohol evaporates and very little is left in the final completed dish.

4. Cook only with wine you would drink. For a start, use mainstream white or red wine until you get accustomed to using wine as an ingredient. Then you can experiment with Sauvignon Blanc as the white wine for sautéing, marinating and in sauces for seafood and chicken, and Cabernet Sauvignon or Chianti for meats and meat-based sauces.

5. Stay away from wines that are heavily-flavored with oak as they tend to give off a bitter taste. Avoid cooking with wines that are extremely fruity, sour or unsavory as these flavors will be emphasized during cooking.

6. Don't use wine labeled "cooking wine," since this description started in 18th century aristocratic kitchens where salt was added to the wine to discourage the cook from drinking it. So most cooking wines still have salt and herbs that can affect the flavor of food adversely.

7. Use only wine whose bottle has just been opened. Wine that has sat too long in your ref has begun to oxidize and will give your food a vinegar-y flavor.

8. For meat dishes, heat (do not boil) the wine as cold wine tends to make meat tough while warm wine helps tenderize it. Dry red wines have better chemistry with heavier red meats.

9. Serve the same wine with dinner that you cooked with as they will balance each other.

10. Other good uses for wine in cooking: Use it when the recipe calls for water. Stir into brown gravy for red meat. Mix with oil to baste meat and poultry. As binding ingredient for sauces and stock. •

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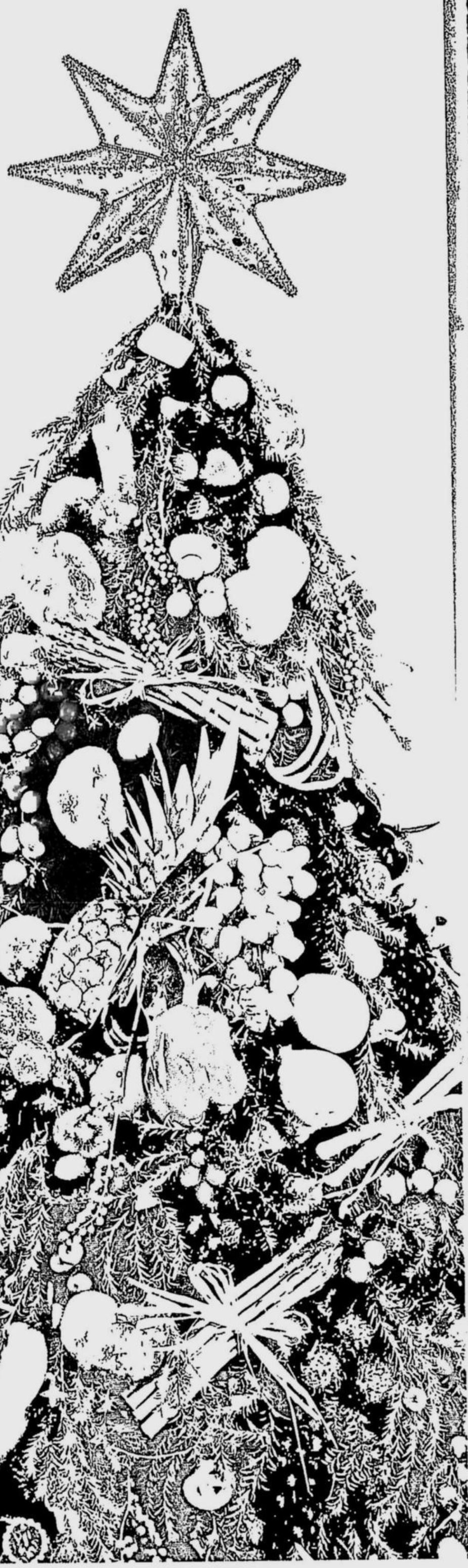

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